THE

# BRITISH CRITIC,

## For AUGUST, 1805.

" Ut vultus hominum ita ſimulacra vultus fluxa ac fragilia ſunt, forma mentis æterna. TACITUS.

The countenance of man, and all repreſentations of it, are frail and fleeting; the beauty of the mind is eternal.

ART. I. *Travels in Europe, Aſia Minor, and Arabia. By J. Griffiths, M. D. Member of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, and of ſeveral Foreign Literary Societies.* 4to. 396 pp. 1l. 10s. Cadell and Davies. 1805.

THE track purſued by this intereſting and entertaining traveller, was as follows: after a reſidence of two years in France, he proceeded to Genoa; thence embarking for the Archipelago, he landed at Scio, Mitylene, and other Grecian Iſlands, on his way to Smyrna. From Smyrna he went to Conſtantinople, where he appears to have made himſelf intimately familiar with every object which juſtified his curioſity; and indeed it is that portion of his work which is employed in deſcribing the government, the manners, and the laws of the Turks, which ſeems moſt worthy of the reader's attention. From Conſtantinople he returned to Smyrna, whence entering the interior of Natolia, he paſſed through Sardis, Heraclea, Apamea, to Mount Taurus. He alſo viſited Seleucia, Antioch, and Aleppo. At Aleppo he

remained two months, and then undertook a journey over the deſert to Buſſorah, and thence proceeded, by the uſual route, to Bombay. The narrative, as given in this volume, ſtops here. But it appears that he afterwards went round the Peninſula to Bengal, whence he ſailed to Prince of Wales's Iſland and Sumatra, and again returning to Bengal, traverſed a very large portion of Hindoſtan. The writer's deſcriptions throughout are communicated with extraordinary animation, and he has contrived, even when ſpeaking of places with which we have all been familiar, to throw ſomething of novelty and ſpirit into his narrative, which renders it peculiarly entertaining. His repreſentation of Smyrna, in particular, is highly amuſing, and will be read with general ſatisfaction; but we ſhall exhibit ſpecimens of his performance only from thoſe parts where the information which he details is entirely original. There is a ſpecies of property among the Turks, which even D'Ohſon has not explained as its ſingularity and importance deſerve. This is called *wakf*, the literal tranſlation of which is aſſignment, or ceſſion, but let Dr. Griffiths ſpeak for himſelf.

"It has been already mentioned, that one of the five principal tenets of the Mahommedan religious code is, "The diſtribution of alms to the poor." This was not meant only to expreſs mere accidental or precarious donations, but alſo to inculcate a general inclination to provide for the exigencies of eſtabliſhments dedicated to pious and charitable purpoſes; and care has been taken by the Ulemah, that property ſo diſpoſed of ſhould be conſidered as *ſacred*, and in every reſpect *ſecure*, from that confiſcation to which all other kinds may be expoſed by the will of the Sultaun.

"The nature of this property, deſignated under the general term *wakf*, and the laws concerning it, merit attention, in as much as no other country, I believe, preſents any ſimilar arrangements; and although many abuſes have taken place reſpecting the inſtitution, it will ſtill appear of great political importance.

"The term *wakf*, in a literal ſenſe, may be tranſlated aſſignment or ceſſion; but it is univerſally underſtood in the Turkiſh dominions to ſignify that property which an individual, from pious motives, makes over or reſigns for the benefit of any religious eſtabliſhment or other object of public utility.—Of this property, or of theſe wakfs, there are three kinds, viz.

"Property—appropriated to moſques and other religious foundations.

"Property—ceded to moſques under peculiar and cuſtomary reſtrictions."

"Property—deſtined to the ſupport of hoſpitals, colleges, and other eſtabliſhments of general intereſt.

"In order to prevent the confiscation of their fortune by the Sultaun, or the dissipation of it by their heirs, the Turks of affluence take advantage of the means which an apparent piety offers, and have recourse to the sacred institutions of their prophet. Whenever a provident father is disposed to secure to his family the enjoyment of his fortune, he determines upon his wakf; that is, he makes over such part of his estate as he judges proper, to a mosque, hospital, or other public establishment, under the restrictions which I shall explain.

"An established formality in bestowing property in wakfs requires that the donor should nominate a person named *Mootouwaulee*, to whose management the revenues are to be entrusted; and another called *Nazeer*, to whom the Mootouwaulee is compelled to render up his accounts, once in every six, or at fartheſt every twelve months. But as it is the peculiar characteristic of wakfs that the founder should be at perfect liberty in the choice of an agent or director, as well as in the disposal of his property, he has a right to unite both privileges in the same person. He may even reserve to himself the management of the estate, or grant it to his wife, to his children of either sex, or to his friend. A mode, therefore, presents itself, by which a considerable portion of his fortune may be ensured to the heirs of a family, since whatever property is not specifically disposed of in the act which constitutes the wakf, becomes tacitly the right of the Mootouwaulee. I use the term *tacitly*, because it is presumed by the law that the Mootouwaulee expends for pious purposes, according to the suggestions of his own devotion, the whole of the wakf, although no positive application may have been made by the founder.

"The advantage which the most opulent officers of the Porte continued long to take of the facility with which they could evade the right of the Sultaun to inherit their estates, became at last so evident, that the laws are now much more rigidly enforced than formerly; and whenever a person of rank dies, or what is the same thing as to the Sultaun's privilege, is disgraced, the whole of his property is seized, and a rigorous examination made respecting the wakfs with which it may be charged. When the residue of the fortune accruing to the family is found to be in a proportion not approved of, the Sultaun, without ceremony, confiscates the whole estate for his own use, making it answerable only for the wakfs properly authenticated.

"The acts by which the wakf is rendered legal are drawn up before a magistrate, and duly registered: a regular and distinct statement of the employ of the funds so disposed of is also necessary; and where any informality takes place, the wakf loses the privilege attached to this species of property, as soon as the founder no longer respects his first intentions; that is, he is not so far involved but that he may revoke them. If the donor die without attending to the requisite formalities, the claim of the

heirs to the eſtate is ſubmitted to the magiſtrate of the place, who decides upon the cauſe as appears beſt to his judgement, I might perhaps ſay to his intereſt.

"All kinds of property, real and perſonal, and even the public revenues, may be conſigned as wakfs; and many Sultauns have appropriated the duties and other public contributions of towns to theſe purpoſes.

"It was formerly cuſtomary that revenues ſo diſpoſed of ſhould be annually farmed; but the governors of provinces, taking an undue advantage of their authority, frequently became themſelves the farmers at a very inferior rent, and underlet them with conſiderable profit. This ſpecies of peculation became ſo notorious, that Muſtapha the Second made a vigorous effort to counteract its bad effects, and converted all theſe annual farms into liferents. This arrangement preſented various difficulties; and frequent changes took place until the year 1759, when the Grand Vizeer Regheb Mahommed Paſhah, a man celebrated for his abilities, had the addreſs to place the farms under the immediate inſpection of the Miniſter of Finance.

"In former times, the Kiſlar Agah, or Chief of the Black Eunuchs, enjoyed the prerogative of regulating theſe concerns; and ſoon after Abdul Hamed came to the throne, he ordered this officer to be re-eſtabliſhed in his rights: a determination by which incalculable pecuniary advantages are added to the high honours attached to his general adminiſtration, certain duties being levied upon every transfer of property, whether the conſequence of vacancy by death of the Mootcuwaulee, exchange of farms, or individual ceſſion.

"The produce of the wakfs, with which moſques and other eſtabliſhments are endowed, uſually exceeds very conſiderably the expenditure which their maintenance requires; and the Mootouwaulee ſeldom ſcruples to appropriate the difference to his own uſe. Many of the imperial moſques have a revenue of twenty or thirty thouſand pounds ſterling, whilſt their whole expences require not more than half, or at moſt two thirds of this ſum. The perquiſites, which are therefore enormous, are divided between the Nazeer and Mootouwaulee, with little riſk of diſcovery, as the government appears to be ignorant of the depredations committed, and no heirs of law are forthcoming to claim the unappropriated eſtate.

"By the ſtatutes reſpecting wakfs, a new Mootouwaulee may prefer complaints againſt his predeceſſor, and excite a very ſtrict examination of the account of his expenditure; but as the ſame principle of peculation is likely to predominate during his own adminiſtration, theſe enquiries are never heard of." P. 190.

The whole of this diſſertation ſhews great acuteneſs on the part of the author, and a very familiar acquaintance with his ſubject. The route over land from Smyrna to Aleppo, as it has very

very rarely indeed been prosecuted by Europeans, entitles the writer to much serious attention and respect. On leaving Aleppo to pass the Desert, the traveller's rashness had nearly cost him his life; he thus relates the circumstance.

"My friend was almost exhausted by the pain and uneasiness he experienced; nor was I much less so: but a desire to explore (as far as was possible for a Christian) the renowned tomb of the Prophet Ali, held in estimation by the Persians with a zeal equally enthusiastic with that which the Hadgees of Mecca entertain for the shrine of Mahommed, vanquished my disposition for rest, and, contrary to the advice of Mr. H. I set off alone for the village.

"It is seated upon an elevated ridge of sand hills: a tolerably good street runs nearly from south to north about three hundred yards. The houses on each side are flat-roofed; many of them being so constructed that their roofs are but little above the level of the street. To enter the habitable part of them, it is necessary to descend from the streets down several steps; so that one is apt to imagine the street has been formed between two rows of houses already built.

"After proceeding along this street, another turns abruptly to the right; and on the left of the angle is the grand entrance to the celebrated mosque. In a variety of shops, near the gates of the mosque, were exposed to sale, water-melons and other fruits, as well as many dried grains: but in almost all of them the proprietors were reposing themselves; and on account of the extreme heat not a single person appeared walking in the streets. Being thirsty, I wished to purchase part of a melon, and addressed myself to a shopkeeper for the purpose; but taking me for a Greek, he loaded me with abuse, and refused to contaminate himself even by selling to me one of the articles on his shop-board. I retired without making him any reply; and, upon my return past his hut, observed he had again laid himself down to sleep. On approaching the gate of the mosque, I perceived that all the good Mussulmauns, at each side of the entrance, were in the same drowsy disposition. Stimulated by an irresistible, yet unpardonable curiosity, I hastily walked into the first court. An elegant fountain, ornamented with coloured tiles, and a profusion of Arabic sentences, was constructed in the center; and a corridor round the area afforded a shady walk to that part of the building, where two handsome doors led to the interior of the mosque. I went to that on the left-hand side; and finding no one at prayers, entered it far enough to see the whole of the apartment. The dome is very handsome, but by no means so large as that of Saint Paul's, as Colonel Capper judged it to be from its appearance at a distance. The mosque is richly ornamented with balls of ivory, glass, ostriches eggs, and a prodigious number of lamps, not only in the center, but

on every ſide. Very ſmall-ſized rich carpets covered the flooring, and two extraordinary large ſilver candleſticks were placed near the Mahareb.

" Apprehenſion of diſcovery now began to operate upon me, and I traced back my ſteps with caution, greatly diſſatisfied at having found nothing extraordinary; but, before I could repaſs the gate, an old man ſtarted up, and called to me in Perſian. Not receiving any anſwer, he awakened two others, when they all jumped from the elevated part where they had been ſleeping, and exclaimed moſt vehemently. One of them, armed with a ſcimitar (fortunately for me not unſheathed), and another with a ſhort ſtick, made many blows at me; which parrying in the beſt manner I was able, although not ſo ſucceſsfully as I could have wiſhed, I daſhed through theſe bearded heroes, and was aſſailed in my flight by many large ſtones, of which, for many days, I bore the marks.

" A conſciouſneſs of the penalties I might incur by my imprudent behaviour, and the fear of being ſeized, ſtimulated my efforts to eſcape; and in ſpite of the burning ſun, or almoſt equally burning ſand, I ſtopped not until I had left the village very far behind me. Arriving at the tent, Mr. H. who tempered his reproaches with a thouſand kind expreſſions, pointed out in the ſtrongeſt terms the danger as well as folly of my proceeding; and although I could not but acknowledge the propriety of his obſervations, yet I felt a ſecret ſatisfaction at having accompliſhed what moſt probably no European ever before attempted." P. 369.

One ſhort extract more is due to the author's ſenſibility. The paſſage acroſs the deſert was undertaken at an inauſpicious time, and a beloved friend was the victim.

" Little converſation took place between my companion and myſelf: he was very ill; and we both dreaded the return of noon, when in general the heated air began to affect us, and travelled on in ſilent hope of ſpeedy relief.

" At two o'clock P. M. the Simooleh blew ſtronger than uſual from the S. E.; and on joining the Mohaffah, I ſoon obſerved an afflicting change had taken place in the countenance of my friend. It was now that, in aggravation of all my ſufferings, I foreſaw the impoſſibility of his long reſiſting the violently burning blaſts which, with little intermiſſion, continued to aſſail us. The thermometer hanging round my neck was up to 116; and the little remaining water, which was in a leathern bottle, ſuſpended at the corner of the Mohaffah, had become ſo thick, reſembling the reſiduum of an ink-ſtand, that, parched and thirſty as I felt, I could not relieve my diſtreſs, by any attempt to ſwallow it.

" At length I perceived evident marks of our approaching the long-looked for wells, where ſome relief was to be expected. The haſty march of the leading camels and ſtragglers, all verging to-

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wards one point, convinced me we were not far from the place of our deſtination. Willing to communicate the glad tidings to my friend, I rode to him, and expreſſed my hope that he would be ſoon refreſhed by a ſupply of water. He replied, "Thank God! but I am almoſt dead." I endeavoured to cheer his ſpirits; and then urging my horſe, advanced to the ſpot where I obſerved the camels were collecting together. In about half an hour I found myſelf amongſt a circle of animals greedily contending for a draught of muddy water, confined in a ſmall ſuperficial well about five feet in diameter. Preſſing to the edge, I laid myſelf upon my belly, and by means of my hand ſupplied myſelf with a fluid, which, however filthy in itſelf, and contaminated by the diſguſting mouths of as many camels and men as could reach it, was a ſource of indeſcribable gratification. It is wholly out of the power of language to convey any idea of the bliſsful enjoyment of obtaining water after an almoſt total want of it during eight and forty hours, in the ſcorching regions of an Arabian deſart in the month of July.

"But this moment of gratification was ſoon ſucceeded by one of peculiar horror and anxiety. Scarcely had I quenched my thirſt before the Mohaffah arrived. I flew with a bowl full of water to my friend; who drank but little of it, and in great haſte. Alas! it was his laſt draught! His lovely child too, eagerly moiſtened her mouth of roſes, bliſtered by the noxious blaſt!

"With difficulty Joannes and myſelf ſupported my feeble friend to where the tent had been thrown down from the camel's back. He ſtammered out a queſtion reſpecting the time of the day; to which I anſwered it was near four: and requeſting the Arabs to hold over him part of the tent (to pitch it required too much time), I unpacked as ſpeedily as poſſible our liquor-cheſt, and haſtened to offer him ſome Viſnee (a kind of cherry-brandy): but Nature was too much exhauſted! I ſat down, and receiving him in my arms, repeated my endeavours to engage him to ſwallow a ſmall portion of the liqueur. All human efforts were vain! Guſt after guſt of peſtilential air dried up the ſprings of life, and he breathed his laſt upon my boſom!

"Let the reader of ſenſibility reflect upon the concomitant circumſtances which attended this afflicting ſcene, and then refer to the ſenſations which will be created in his own breaſt, to form ſome idea of thoſe which muſt have lacerated mine! Let him paint to himſelf a traveller, of an age alive to every feeling, in the midſt of the Deſart of Arabia, with the corpſe of his reſpected friend, burnt to the appearance of a cinder, black, yet warm, on one ſide of him; and on the other, the daughter of that friend, the moſt angelic child that Nature ever formed, unconſcious of her loſs, and with the prattle of innocence inquiring "where her dear papa was gone to?" It was a ſcene as little to be ſupported as deſcribed; and the honeſt tears I ſhed bore ample teſtimony to the wounded ſenſibility of my heart.

" But a ſhort time, however, could be allowed to aſſuage my grief, or to indulge it. Who were to perform thoſe laſt ſad offices of friendſhip, ſo requiſite, and yet ſo difficult? Who would undertake to prepare with decency for the grave, the disfigured remains of my kind companion? Who would aſſiſt in theſe diſguſting yet pious occupations? The ſervant and myſelf were all that profeſſed the Chriſtian religion, and we alone could execute its duties.

" With as much propriety as the circumſtances admitted, we therefore performed the melancholy taſk; and having induced the Arabs to dig a grave near the remains of a village not far from the wells, I directed the body to be carried there, following it with the dear Marianne, who knelt by me whilſt I offered to God the pure effuſions of a heart overwhelmed by diſtreſs, but ſubmiſſively bowing to the decrees of his divine will!" P. 376.

Theſe ſpecimens will demonſtrate the writer to be a pleaſing companion, as well as of great acuteneſs and extenſive obſervation. Indeed we have very ſeldom met with a more amuſing performance than his book. Nevertheleſs, the places here deſcribed, form but a ſmall proportion of thoſe which Dr. Griffiths viſited. It is from his travels in India, and his diſcuſſions on the Hindu and Muſſelmaun laws, that ſtill more intereſting information may be expected. The author waits only for the deciſion of the public on this his firſt performance, to engage in theſe and other undertakings, highly intereſting to the cauſe of learning. We are ſorry to obſerve that the plates in this volume are trifling in themſelves, and of very indifferent execution; we hope he will attend to this in his future works.

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ART. II. *Philoſophical Tranſactions of the Royal Society of London for the Year* 1804. *Part II.* 4to. 244 pp. G. and W. Nicol. 1804.

THIS ſecond part of the volume for the year 1804 contains nine papers, viz. from the 9th to the 17th incluſively. A conciſe account of their ſubjects will be found in the following pages:

IX. *Analytical Experiments and Obſervations on Lac.* By Charles Hatchett, Eſq. F. R. S.

The original information, which induced Mr. H. to inſtitute a courſe of experiments on Lac, was communicated by Charles Wilkins, Eſq. who, while reſiding in India, learned

learned that the Hindus diſſolve ſhell lac in water by the mere addition of a little borax. They then add lamp-black to the ſolution, and in that ſtate uſe it as writing ink. In conſequence of this information, Mr. H. ſubjected that ſingular ſubſtance to a variety of trials, from which he deduced ſeveral uſeful conſequences.

From the communications of Mr. Kerr, Mr. Saunders, and Dr. Roxburgh, which are inſerted in former volumes of the Philoſophical Tranſactions, it appears that lac is the ſubſtance of the nidus, or comb of the inſect, called *coccus*, or *chermes lacca*, which is depoſited on the branches of various plants in India, eſpecially on certain ſpecies of mimoſa. They deſcribe four kinds of this ſubſtance, namely, ſtick lac, ſeed lac, lump lac, and ſhell lac; three of which, however, are only known in commerce. They alſo deſcribe the peculiar properties of thoſe ſpecies, with the modes of preparation, and other particulars.

Mr. H. after a ſhort extract from thoſe accounts, and after briefly mentioning the few experiments which chemiſts had made on lac, begins to relate his own experiments and obſervations. This part of the paper is divided into three ſections, the titles of which are—1. Effects of different menſtrua on the varieties of lac. 2. Analytical experiments on ſtick, ſeed, and ſhell lac; and, 3. General remarks.

The menſtrua mentioned in the firſt, as having been tried on lac, are water, alcohol, ſulphuric ether, concentrated ſulphuric acid, nitric acid, muriatic acid, acetous and acetic acid, a ſaturated ſolution of boracic acid in water, borax, the lixivia of pure ſoda, and of the carbonate of ſoda, the lixivium of cauſtic potaſh, and, laſtly, ammonia.

"It has been," this author ſays, "already ſtated, that ſub-borate of ſoda or borax has a powerful effect on lac, ſo as to render it ſoluble in water; and, as the preceding experiments prove that boracic acid alone ſcarcely acts upon lac, there is every reaſon to believe, that the exceſs of ſoda preſent in borax is the active ſubſtance; and this concluſion will be confirmed, by the reſults of ſubſequent experiments made with the alkalis.

"In order to render lac (eſpecially ſhell lac) ſoluble in water, about $\frac{1}{5}$ of borax is neceſſary; and this may be previouſly diſſolved in the water, or may be mixed and added together with the lac.

"The beſt proportion of water to that of lac is 18 or 20 to 1. So that 20 grs. of borax, and four ounces of water, are, upon an average, requiſite to diſſolve 100 grs. of ſhell lac; but more water may be occaſionally added, to ſupply the loſs cauſed by evaporation during the digeſtion, which ſhould be made nearly in a boiling heat.

"This

" This ſolution of ſhell lac is turbid, and of a reddiſh brown colour; when conſiderably diluted with water and agitated, a weak lather is formed; it is decompoſed by acids, and the lac is precipitated in yellow flocculi, which do not apparently differ from the lac originally employed.

" The general properties of the ſolution ſhow, that it is a ſaponaceous compound, which, being uſed as a varniſh or vehicle for colours, becomes (when dry) difficultly ſoluble in water, although this was the liquid employed to form the ſolution.

" A white thick ſcum or cream collects on the ſurface of this liquid, after it has been ſuffered to remain tranquil for ſome time, and is found to be produced by a ſort of wax, which I ſhall more particularly notice when the analyſes of the varieties of lac are deſcribed; but, in the preſent caſe, this wax appeared in ſome degree to be converted into an almoſt inſoluble ſoap by the alkali of the borax, and may be regarded as the principal cauſe of the turbidneſs of the ſolution." P. 200.

In the ſecond ſection Mr. H. deſcribes the products of the diſtillation of the three principal ſpecies of lac; alſo the analytical products of each ſpecies; together with the properties of their ſeparate ingredients; from all which it appears, that lac conſiſts principally of reſin, mixed with certain proportions of a peculiar kind of wax, of gluten, and of colouring extract.

In the laſt ſection this author ſays,

" From the whole of the experiments which have been related, it appears, that although lac is indiſputably the production of inſects, yet it poſſeſſes few of the characters of animal ſubſtances; and that the greater part of its aggregate properties, as well as of its component ingredients, are ſuch as more immediately appertain to vegetable bodies.

" Lac, or gum lac, as it is popularly but improperly called, is certainly a very uſeful ſubſtance; and the natives of India furniſh full proofs of this, by the many purpoſes to which they apply it.

" According to Mr. Kerr, it is made by them into rings, beads, and other female ornaments.

" When formed into ſealing-wax, it is employed as a japan, and is likewiſe manufactured into different coloured varniſhes.

" The colouring part is formed into lakes for painters: a ſort of Spaniſh wool for the ladies is alſo prepared with it; and, as a dying material, it is in very general uſe.

" The reſinous part is even employed to form grindſtones, by melting it, and mixing with it about three parts of ſand. For making poliſhing grindſtones, the ſand is ſifted through fine muſlin; but thoſe which are employed by the lapidaries, are formed with powder of corundum, called by them Corune *.

* Phil. Tranſ. 1781, p. 380.

" But,

"But, in addition to all the above uſes to which it is applied in India, as well as to thoſe which cauſe it to be in requeſt in Europe, Mr. Wilkins's Hindû ink occupies a conſpicuous place, not merely on account of its uſe as an ink, but becauſe it teaches us to prepare an aqueous ſolution of lac, which probably will be found of very extenſive utility.

"This ſolution of lac in water may be advantageouſly employed as a ſort of varniſh, which is equal in durability, and other qualities, to thoſe prepared with alcohol; whilſt, by the ſaving of this liquid, it is infinitely cheaper.

"I do not mean, however, to aſſert that it will anſwer equally well in all caſes, but only that it may be employed in many. It will be found likewiſe of great uſe as a vehicle for colours; for, when dry, it is not eaſily affected by damp, or even by water." P. 215.

X. *On the Integration of certain differential Expreſſions, with which Problems in phyſical Aſtronomy are connected, &c.* By Robert Woodhouſe, A. M. F. R. S. &c.

Of this paper, as it is particularly important, we ſhall take another opportunity to give an account; more at large than we could here inſert.

XI. *Obſervations on Baſalt, and on the Tranſition from the vitreous to the ſtony Texture, which occurs in the gradual Refrigeration of melted Baſalt; with ſome Geological Remarks.* In a Letter from Gregory Watt, Eſq. to the Right Hon. Charles Greville, V. P. R. S.

The experiments, which form the ſubject of this valuable paper, were undertaken in conſequence of the judicious experiments and obſervations of Sir James Hall on the regulated cooling of melted baſalt.

In a common reverberatory furnace, ſuch as is uſed in founderies for the fuſion of pig-iron, Mr. Watt fuſed ſeven hundred weight of amorphous baſalt, which was afterwards ſuffered to cool ſlowly. When taken out of the furnace the maſs of melted baſalt was of a vitreous nature. Its ſhape, owing to the irregularities of the furnace, approached to that of a wedge, whoſe lower angles were rounded. It was nearly three feet and a half long, two feet and a half wide, about four inches thick at one end, and about eighteen inches at the other. This author then deſcribes the internal as well as the external appearance of the whole maſs. The principal part of this deſcription is as follows:

"A continuation of the temperature favourable to arrangement, ſpeedily induces another change. The texture of the maſs becomes more granular, its colour rather more gray, and the brilliant points larger and more numerous: nor is it long before theſe brilliant molecules arrange themſelves into regular forms; and, finally,

finally, the whole maſs becomes pervaded by thin cryſtalline laminæ, which interſect it in every direction, and form projecting cryſtals in the cavities. The hardneſs of the baſis ſeems to continue nearly the ſame; but the aggregate action of the baſis, and of the imbedded cryſtals, on the magnetic needle, is prodigiouſly increaſed. It appears to poſſeſs ſome polarity; and minute fragments are ſuſpended by a magnet. Its ſpecific gravity is ſomewhat increaſed, as it is now 2.949. The cryſtals contained in it, when examined by a microſcope, appear to be faſciculi of ſlender priſms, nearly rectangular, terminated by planes perpendicular to the axis; they are extremely brilliant; their colour is greeniſh-black; they are harder than glaſs, and fuſible at the blowpipe; they are ſuſpended by the action of a magnet. They are arranged nearly ſide by ſide, but not accumulated in thickneſs, ſo that they preſent the appearance of broad thin laminæ; they croſs one another at all angles, but always on nearly the ſame plane; and the lamina thus formed is often three or four lines long, and from a line to a line and a half broad, but extremely thin *.

" It ſeems obvious, that an equalized temperature would have rendered the whole ſimilar to the ſubſtance laſt deſcribed; and it may be fairly inferred, that by a continuance of heat, the minute cryſtals would have been augmented in their dimenſions, by the acceſſion of molecules ſtill engaged in the baſis, or by the union of ſeveral cryſtals, till they acquired ſufficient magnitude for their nature to be abſolutely determined by the uſual modes of inveſtigation. It is probable, however, if ſuch precautions had been taken as might have ſecured this degree of perfection in the ulterior reſult, that the maſs would only have exhibited an uniform aſpect, and that the intereſting initial phenomena would not have been diſcovered †." P. 285.

To

* " It may be obſerved, that the cavities which exiſted in the glaſs are not obliterated during the ſubſequent proceſſes, though their interior ſurfaces undergo ſome change. The minute globules firſt formed often become prominent, and project into the cavities. Theſe minute points are ſoon obliterated by the large curves of the fibrous ſpheroids, which give a mamellated form to the interiors of the cavities; and, when the cryſtals are generated in the maſs, they ſhoot into ſome of the cavities, and line them with their brilliant laminæ."

† " In this and the ſucceeding paragraphs, the word molecule is uſed in the ſenſe aſſigned to it by Hauy and Dolomieu, and is underſtood to repreſent the peculiar ſolids, of definite compoſition and invariable form, the accumulation of which, forms the cryſtals of mineral ſubſtances. Such molecules, preſerving their form and their eſſential characteriſtics, may be extracted from moſt cryſtals by mechanical diviſion, and may be ſubdivided as far as our ſenſes can recognize them. Though we cannot by mechanical means directly divide them into their elementary particles, we are enabled

To this Mr. W. ſubjoins various judicious remarks in explanation of the phenomena exhibited by the above-mentioned maſs of melted baſalt. Alſo on the nature of fuſion, cryſtallization, and particularly on the ſhape and formation of baſaltic columns; but for thoſe particulars we muſt refer our readers to the paper itſelf, which well deſerves the attention of the ſcientific world, and particularly of Geologiſts.

XII. *An Analyſis of the magnetical Pyrites; with Remarks on ſome of the other Sulphurets of Iron.* By Charles Hatchett, Eſq. F. R. S.

In the commencement of this rather long paper Mr. H. obſerves, that of the various metallic ſulphurets, the ſulphuret of iron, commonly called *martial pyrites*, is by far the moſt abundant, it being generally found at all depths, and in all climates and ſoils. The different ſpecies of this mineral are deſcribed by all the mineralogical writers; and among thoſe ſpecies there is one, which, from its peculiar property of having a ſtrong magnetic polarity, is called the magnetical pyrites.

As it did not appear that this ſpecies had been ſubjected to any regular chemical examination, Mr. H. endeavoured to analyze it, and to inveſtigate its properties; and for this purpoſe he inſtituted a ſeries of experiments, an account of which, with their reſults, is contained in the preſent paper.

The external characters of the magnetical pyrites (*ferrum mineraliſatum magnetico pyritaceum*) are as follows:

"It is," Mr. H. ſays, "moſt frequently of the colour of bronze, paſſing to a pale cupreous red.

"The luſtre is metallic.

"The fracture is unequal, and commonly coarſe-grained, but ſometimes imperfectly conchoidal.

"The fragments are amorphous.

"The trace is yellowiſh-gray, with ſome metallic luſtre.

"It is not very hard; but, when ſtruck with ſteel, ſparks are produced, although with ſome difficulty.

"It is brittle, and is eaſily broken.

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abled to effect this by chemical ſolution, the only power to which their aggregation yields. It will be evident, from the obſervations that follow, that I am inclined to adopt the ingenious idea of Dolomieu, that many apparently homogeneous rocks are compounds of the minute molecules of ſeveral ſpecies of minerals; and that, where a ſuitable opportunity is given, theſe will develope themſelves by the formation of their peculiar cryſtals."

"This

" This pyrites has been hitherto found only in ſome parts of Norway, Sileſia, Bavaria, and eſpecially at Geier, Meſſersdorf, and Breitenbrunn, in Saxony; but, having received ſome ſpecimens from the Right Hon. Charles Greville, F. R. S. I was ſtruck with their reſemblance to the pyrites of Breitenbrunn, which happened at that time to be in my poſſeſſion; and, upon trial, I found that they were magnetical, and agreed with the latter in every particular. Their magnetic power was ſuch as ſtrongly to affect a well-poized needle, of about three inches in length; a piece of the pyrites, nearly two inches ſquare, acted upon the needle at the diſtance of four inches." P. 316.

The above-mentioned pyrites of Mr. Greville was found in great abundance in Caernarvonſhire, near the baſe of the mountain called Moel Elion, and oppoſite to the mountain called Mynydd Mawr. Mr. H. ſubjected it to the uſual chemical trials, viz. he expoſed it to the blaſt of the blowpipe, then to the more powerful action of a furnace, both in open and in cloſed veſſels; he tried the effects of acids upon it, &c. of which proceſſes we need not give any particular account. It may ſuffice to ſay, that 100 grains of the magnetical pyrites were found to conſiſt of ſulphur 36.5 grs. and of iron 63.5 grs.

The account of thoſe experiments is accompanied with various proper remarks, with the obſervations of other writers, and with the account of comparative analyſes of other ſpecies of pyrites; but, independent of this analytical inveſtigation, Mr. H. endeavoured to imitate this natural product by ſynthetical operations, and the reſult of his attempts is expreſſed in the following paragraph:

" From the whole," he ſays, " of the experiments which have been related, it is therefore evident, that iron, when combined with a conſiderable proportion of ſulphur, is not only ſtill capable of receiving the magnetic property, but is alſo thereby enabled to retain it, and thus (as I have already remarked) becomes a complete magnet; and it is not a little curious, that iron combined (as above ſtated) with 45 or 46 per cent. of ſulphur, is capable of being taken up by a magnet, whilſt iron combined with 52 per cent. or more, of ſulphur, (although likewiſe in the metallic ſtate,) does not ſenſibly affect the magnetic needle; and hence, ſmall as the difference may appear, there is reaſon to conclude, that the capacity of iron for magnetic action is deſtroyed by a certain proportion of ſulphur, the effects of which, although little if at all ſenſible at 46 per cent. are yet nearly or quite abſolute, in this deſtruction of magnetic influence, before it amounts to 52. But, what the exact intermediate proportion of ſulphur may be, which is adequate to produce this effect, I have not as yet determined by actual experiment." P. 333.

And

And further on he gives a more circumſtantial account of all his experimental inveſtigation in the following words:

" From the whole which has been ſtated we find, 1. That the ſubſtance called magnetical pyrites, which has hitherto been found only in Saxony, and a few other places, is alſo a Britiſh mineral, and that, in Caernarvonſhire, it forms a vein of conſiderable extent, breadth, and depth.

" 2. That the component ingredients of it are ſulphur and metallic iron; the former being in the proportion of 36.50 or 37, and the latter about 63.50 or 63.

" 3. That the chemical and other properties of this ſubſtance are very different from thoſe of the common martial pyrites, which, however, are alſo compoſed of ſulphur and iron, varying in proportion, from 52.15 to 54.34 of ſulphur, and from 47.85 to 45.66 of metallic iron; the difference between the common pyrites which were examined being therefore 2.19, and the mean proportions amounting to 53.24 of ſulphur, and 46.75 of iron; conſequently, the difference between the relative proportions, in the compoſition of the magnetical pyrites, and of the common pyrites, is nearly 16.74, or 16.24.

" 4. That, as the magnetical pyrites agrees in analytical reſults, as well as in all chemical and other properties, with that ſulphuret of iron which hitherto has been only known as an artificial product, there is no doubt but that it is identically the ſame; and we may conclude, that its proportions are moſt probably ſubjected to a certain law, (as Mr. Prouſt has obſerved in the caſe of the artificial ſulphuret,) which law, under certain circumſtances, and eſpecially during the natural formation of this ſubſtance in the humid way, may be ſuppoſed to act in an almoſt invariable manner.

" 5. That, in the formation of common martial pyrites, there is a deviation from this law, and that ſulphur becomes the predominant ingredient, which is variable in quantity, but which, by the preſent experiments, has not been found to exceed 54.34 per cent. a proportion, however, that poſſibly may be ſurpaſſed in other pyrites, which have not as yet been chemically examined.

" 6. That iron, when combined naturally or artificially with 36.50 or 37 of ſulphur, is not only ſtill capable of receiving the magnetic fluid, but is alſo rendered capable of retaining it, ſo as to become in every reſpect a permanent magnet; and the ſame may, in a great meaſure, be inferred reſpecting iron which has been artificially combined with 45.50 per cent. of ſulphur.

" 7. That, beyond this proportion of 45.50 or 46 per cent. of ſulphur, (in the natural common pyrites,) all ſuſceptibility of the magnetic influence appears to be deſtroyed; and, although the preciſe proportion which is capable of producing this effect, has not as yet been determined by actual experiment, it is certain

tain that the limits are between 45.50 and 52.15; unleſs ſome unknown alteration has taken place in the ſtate of the ſulphur, or of the iron, in the common martial pyrites.

" 8. That, as carbon, when combined in a certain proportion with iron, (forming ſteel,) enables it to become a permanent magnet, and as a certain proportion of ſulphur communicates the ſame quality to iron, ſo alſo were found to be the effects of phoſphorus; for the phoſphuret of iron, in this reſpect, was by much the moſt powerful, at leaſt when conſidered comparatively with ſulphuret of iron.

" 9, and laſtly, that as carbon, ſulphur, and phoſphorus, produce, by their union with iron, many chemical effects of much ſimilarity, ſo do each of them, when combined with that metal in certain proportions, not only permit it to receive, but alſo give it the peculiar power of retaining, the magnetical properties; and thus, henceforth, in addition to that carburet of iron called ſteel, certain ſulphurets and phoſphurets of iron may be regarded as bodies peculiarly ſuſceptible of ſtrong magnetical impregnation." P. 335.

The latter part of the paper contains ſome general obſervations of no great import.

XIII. *Remarks on the voluntary Expanſion of the Skin of the Neck, in the Cobra de Capello, or hooded Snake of the Eaſt Indies.* By Patrick Ruſſell, M. D. F. R. S. *With a Deſcription of the Structure of the Parts which perform that Office.* By Everard Home, Eſq. F. R. S.

The ſubject of this paper is deſcribed by Dr. R. in the following manner:

" The remarkable expanſion of the ſkin of the neck, in the Coluber Naja of Linnæus, or Cobra de Capello of the Eaſt Indies, and which conſtitutes a principal character of the ſpecies, is produced by an apparatus hitherto, as I believe, very imperfectly deſcribed. It is a voluntary action, totally diſtinct from that inflation which all ſerpents, when irritated, are more or leſs capable of, and which the Coluber Naja alſo aſſumes, at the ſame time that it expands its hood.

" In botanical excurſions in India, fragments of ſerpentine ſkeletons, made by the black ants, were occaſionally met with; but, in ſuch as were ſuppoſed to belong to the Coluber Naja, the peculiar diſpoſition and ſtructure of the cervical ribs, ſo different from that in other ſerpents, had eſcaped me.

" In other ſerpents, the ribs, from the firſt vertebra to thoſe of the middle of the trunk, gradually increaſe in length; thence they gradually ſhorten or decline, to near the end of the tail, where they diſappear, or are transformed into ſhort eminences; but, in the Coluber Naja, the cervical ribs gradually lengthen

to

to the tenth or eleventh, after which, they ſucceſſively ſhorten to the twentieth. The ribs, again increaſing in length, are, at the middle of the trunk, nearly as long as the middle cervical ribs; and then declining, as uſual in other ſerpents, diſappear on the tail.

"So obvious a peculiarity in the ſkeleton of the Cobra de Capello having eſcaped my notice in India, and finding myſelf unable to account for the expanſion of its hood, which is commonly, in that country, conceived to be connected with inſpiration, I brought with me, on my return to England, ſeveral ſubjects for diſſection, in order to have the matter properly aſcertained. My friend Mr. Home readily undertook the taſk; and the ſubjoined reſult of his inveſtigation will, I have no doubt, prove ſatisfactory.

"I have, on another occaſion, aſſerted as a fact, that the neck of the Cobra de Capello, in a quieſcent ſtate, ſhows no external protuberance whatever*; and it is clearly accounted for, in the following deſcription, from the ribs, when depreſſed, lying upon the ſpine, over one another." P. 346.

Mr. Home's more particular deſcription, which follows the above tranſcribed paragraphs, is accompanied with two copper plate engravings, without the aid of which an abridged deſcription could not be rendered ſufficiently intelligible.

XIV. *Continuation of an Account of the Changes that have happened in the relative Situation of double Stars.* By William Herſchell, LL. D. F. R. S.

In a former paper on the ſame ſubject, which is publiſhed in the Philoſophical Tranſactions for the year 1803, Dr. H. deſcribes the changes of ſituation which he had obſerved in ſix double ſtars, one of which is the double ſtar caſtor; and in inveſtigating the cauſes of the alteration of place in that ſtar, he had recourſe to the moſt authentic obſervations he could find of the motions in right aſcenſion and polar diſtance of that ſtar. But as Dr. Maſkelyne, the Aſtronomer Royal, has ſince publiſhed the proper motions of 36 principal ſtars, of which *a* Geminorum is one; and as the motion of that ſtar, eſpecially in north polar diſtance, does now appear to be very different from what it had been ſuppoſed, Dr. Herſchel found it neceſſary to review the arguments which had been uſed in his former computation, in order to aſcertain the reſult of this new motion. A review

* Continuation of an account of Indian Serpents, page 3. Lond. 1801.

of thoſe arguments forms the commencement of the preſent paper; and for the illuſtration of this review, a plate with two diagrams is annexed to the paper.

After this review, Dr. H. ſays,

"I ſhall now proceed to a continuation of my account of the changes that have happened in the relative ſituation of double ſtars, either in their poſition or their mutual diſtance; and, in the following liſt of them, it will be ſeen that, of 50 changeable double ſtars which are given, 28 have undergone only moderate alterations, ſuch as do not amount to an angle of 10 degrees. None of them however have been admitted, except where the change was at leaſt ſo conſiderable, that the micrometer which was uſed on this occaſion could aſcertain the change with a proper degree of accuracy. Two of the ſtars, indeed, have hardly ſuffered any alteration in the angle of poſition; but, with them it will be found, that a change in their diſtance has been ſo aſcertained as not to admit of any doubt. Thirteen of the ſtars have altered their ſituation above 10 degrees, but leſs than 20. Three ſtars have undergone a change in the angle of poſition, of more than 20, and as far as 30 degrees. The ſix remaining ſtars afford inſtances of a ſtill greater change, which, in the angle of poſition of ſome of them, amounts to more than 30 degrees; in others, to near 40, 50, 60, and upwards, to 130 degrees." P. 359.

The above-mentioned 50 ſtars are, $\alpha$ Herculis; $\gamma$ Arietis; $\xi$ Urſæ; $\gamma$ Andromedæ; $\mu$ Draconis; $\delta$ Geminorum; $\varepsilon$ Draconis; $\zeta$ Aquarii; $\xi$ Bootis; $\omega$ Leonis; $\pi$ Arietis; $\eta$ Coronæ; Fl. 21 Urſæ; Fl. 4 Aquarii; ſouth-preceding $\pi$ Serpentis; near $\mu$ Bootis; north-preceding Fl. 18 Perſei; $\epsilon$ Coronæ; $\epsilon$ Lyræ; $p$ Serpentarii; $\lambda$ Ophiuchi; north-preceding Fl. 29 Capricorni; near Fl. 3 Pegaſi; Fl. 49 Serpentis; preceding Fl. 11 Serpentarii; Fl. 38 Piſcium; near Fl. 64 Aquarii; Fl. 46 Herculis; $\delta$ Cygni; $b$ Draconis; ſouth-preceding Fl. 30 Orionis; $\eta$ Caſſiopeæ; $d$ Serpentis; north of 105 Herculis; Rigel; $\zeta$ Cancri; $\varrho$ Capricorni; north-preceding Fl. 56 Andromedæ; near 37 Aquilæ; $\alpha$ Urſæ minoris; north-preceding Fl. 62 Aquilæ; preceding $\tau$ Orionis; $\zeta$ Urſæ majoris: north-following $\varphi$ Herculis; north-following $\nu$ Aquarii; $\alpha$ Piſcium; Fl. 11 Monocerotis; north-preceding $\gamma$ Aquilæ; $e$ Geminorum; and Fl. 32 Eridani.

XV. *Obſervations on the Change of ſome of the proximate Principles of Vegetables into Bitumen; with analytical Experiments on a peculiar Subſtance which is found with the Bovey Coal.* By Charles Hatchett, Eſq. F. R. S.

This author, whoſe labours form a conſpicuous part of the preſent volume of the Philoſophical Tranſactions, juſtly obſerves,

obſerves, that "one of the moſt inſtructive and important "parts of geology, is the ſtudy of the ſpontaneous alterations by which bodies formerly appertaining to the organized kingdoms of nature, have, after the loſs of the vital "principle, become gradually converted into foſſil ſubſtances."

In a great many inſtances the difference which is obſervable between certain foſſils, and the original ſubſtances from which they are derived, is ſo very great, as to leave the human mind in much doubt and perplexity reſpecting their real dependence: and it is only by tracing the various intermediate ſteps that ſatisfactory information can be obtained. By theſe means we may attain the knowledge of the moſt remarkable changes, which the terraqueous world has undergone, or is undergoing in the three kingdoms of nature; and the attainment of that knowledge is in great meaſure promoted by the help of chemiſtry.

"The principal object," Mr. H. ſays, "I have in view, is to adduce ſome additional proofs, that the bituminous ſubſtances are derived from the organized kingdoms of nature, and eſpecially from vegetable bodies; for, although many circumſtances ſeem to lead to the opinion, that the animal kingdom has in ſome meaſure contributed to the partial formation of bitumen, yet the proofs are by no means ſo numerous, nor ſo poſitive, as thoſe which indicate the vegetable kingdom to have been the grand ſource from which the bitumens have been derived. But this opinion, (founded upon very ſtrong preſumptive evidence,) although generally adopted, is however queſtioned by ſome perſons; and I ſhall therefore bring forward a few additional facts, which will, I flatter myſelf, contribute to demonſtrate, that bitumen has been, and is actually and immediately formed, from the reſin, and perhaps from ſome of the other juices of vegetables.

"The chemical characters of the pure or unmixed bitumens, ſuch as naptha, petroleum, mineral tar, and aſphaltum, are, in certain reſpects, ſo different from thoſe of the reſins and other inſpiſſated juices of recent vegetables, that, had the former never occurred but in a ſeparate and unmixed ſtate, no poſitive inference could have been drawn from their properties, in proof of their vegetable origin. Fortunately, however, they have been more frequently found under circumſtances which have ſtrongly indicated the ſource from whence they have been derived; and much information has been acquired from obſervations made on the varieties of turf, bituminous wood, and pit coal, on the nature of their ſurrounding ſtrata, on the veſtiges of animal and vegetable bodies which accompany them, and on various other local facts; all of which tend conſiderably to elucidate the hiſtory of their formation, and to throw light upon this intereſting part of geology." P. 387.

The preſent paper contains an account of the experiments made on Bovey coal, to which is prefixed the deſcription of a very remarkable ſchiſtus, which ſome years ago was brought from Iceland by Sir Joſeph Banks.

"The ſingularity," Mr. H. ſays, "of this ſubſtance is, that a great part of it conſiſts of leaves, which are evidently thoſe of the alder, interpoſed between the different lamellæ. I do not mean mere impreſſions of leaves, ſuch as are frequently found in many of the ſlates, but the real ſubſtance, in an apparently half charred ſtate, retaining diſtinctly the form of the leaves, and the arrangement of the fibres.

"The ſchiſtus is light, brittle, of eaſy exfoliation, in the tranſverſe fracture earthy, and of a pale brown colour; but, when longitudinally divided, the whole ſurface conſtantly preſents a ſeries of the leaves which have been mentioned, uniformly ſpread, and commonly of a light gray on the upper ſurface, and of a dark brown on the other; the fibres on the light gray ſurface being generally of a blackiſh brown, which is alſo the colour aſſumed by the ſchiſtus when reduced to powder." P. 390.

Theſe, and other obſervations, gave Mr. H. reaſon to conclude, that the ſubſtance of the above-mentioned leaves was not converted into complete charcoal, but that it might more properly be regarded as vegetable matter in an incipient ſtate of carbonization. In conſequence of this idea the ſchiſtus was ſubjected to a variety of trials, amounting indeed to a complete analyſis, the reſult of which is expreſſed in the following manner: P. 394.

"By this analyſis, 250 grains of the ſchiſtus afforded,

| | | Grains. |
|---|---|---|
| Water | A. | 42.50 |
| Thick brown oily bitumen | B. | 7.50 |
| Mixed gas (by computation) | B. | 23.75 |
| Charcoal (by computation) | C. | 54.25 |
| Silica | D. | 98 |
| Oxide of iron | E. | 6 |
| Alumina | F. | 15 |
| | | 247. |

But the water and vegetable matter muſt be regarded as extraneous; and, if they are deducted, the real compoſition of the ſchiſtus is nearly as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Silica | 82.30 |
| Alumina | 12.61 |
| Oxide of iron | 5 |
| | 99.91. |

It

It evidently, therefore, belongs to the family of argillaceous ſchiſtus, although the proportion of ſilica is more conſiderable than has been found in thoſe hitherto ſubjected to chemical analyſis."

With reſpect to the Bovey coal, ſome authors have doubted its being of vegetable origin: and Dr. Milles, who gives an account of the apparent ſtate and ſituation of this ſubſtance in the Philoſophical Tranſactions for the year 1760, labours to prove that its origin is not vegetable, but mineral. Mr. H., however, from the concurrence of various well known facts, in conjunction with his own experiments, ſeems clearly to eſtabliſh the idea of a vegetable origin.

His examination ſhews, that 200 grains of the Bovey coal, by diſtillation, yielded

1. Water, which ſoon came over acid, and afterwards turbid, by the mixture of ſome bitumen - - - - 60 grs.
2. Thick brown oily bitumen - - 21 grs.
3. Charcoal - - - - 90 grs.
4. Mixed gas, conſiſting of hydrogen, carbonated hydrogen, and carbonic acid, by eſtimation 29 grs.

Adherent to the Bovey coal there are frequently found lumps of bitumen, which Dr. Milles calls *lumps of bright yellow loam, extremely light, and ſo ſaturated with petroleum, that they burn like ſealing-wax, emitting a very agreeable and aromatic ſcent.*

Mr. Hatchett deſcribes the ſame ſubſtance in the following words:

"It accompanies the Bovey coal, in the manner already deſcribed, and is found in maſſes of a moderate ſize.

"The colour is pale browniſh ochraceous yellow.

"The fracture is imperfectly conchoidal.

"It appears earthy externally, but, when broken, exhibits a ſlight degree of vitreous luſtre.

"The fragments are irregularly angular, and completely opaque at the edges.

"It is extremely brittle.

"It does not apparently become ſoftened, when held for ſome time in the hand, but emits a faint reſinous odour.

"The ſpecific gravity, at temperature 65° of Fahrenheit, is 1,135.

"Some ſpecimens have dark ſpots, ſlightly approaching in colour and luſtre to aſphaltum; and ſmall portions of the Bovey coal are commonly interſperſed in the larger maſſes of this bitumen.

"When placed on a heated iron, it immediately melts, ſmokes much, burns with a bright flame, and yields a very fragrant odour,

odour, like ſome of the ſweet-ſcented reſins, but which at laſt becomes ſlightly tainted with that of aſphaltum.

"The melted maſs, when cold, is black, very brittle, and breaks with a gloſſy fracture." P. 402.

This ſubſtance alſo Mr. H. ſubjected to a regular analyſis, the reſult of which is, that

"The bitumen which accompanies the Bovey coal, is a peculiar and hitherto unknown ſubſtance, which is partly in the ſtate of vegetable reſin, and partly in that of the bitumen called Aſphaltum, the reſin being in the largeſt proportion, as 100 grains of the above-mentioned ſubſtance afforded,

| | |
|---|---|
| Reſin - - | 55 |
| Aſphaltum - - | 41 |
| Earthy reſiduum - | 3 |
| | 99. |

"Thus we have an inſtance of a ſubſtance being found under circumſtances which conſtitute a foſſil, although the characters of it appertain partly to the vegetable, and partly to the mineral kingdom." P. 405.

The laſt ſection of this paper contains the account of ſome comparative experiments made with alcohol on the ſoft brown bitumen from Derbyſhire, on the genuine aſphaltum, on very pure cannel coal, and on the common pit-coal. Theſe experiments ſhew that the action of alcohol on the bitumens is very ſlight.

XVI. *On two Metals, found in the black Powder remaining after the Solution of Platina.* By Smithſon Tennant, Eſq. F. R. S.

When platina is diſſolved in its uſual menſtruum, *aqua regia*, or nitro-muriatic acid, a black powder remains, which has been generally believed to conſiſt chiefly of plumbago. It is in this powder that Mr. T. has diſcovered two new metallic ſubſtances, of which he gives an account in the preſent paper. He mentions, that the platina on which he operated, had been previouſly freed from the ſand, and other ſubſtances that are generally mixed with it; ſo that the black powder muſt have been contained in the grains of platina. The ſpecific gravity of the black powder is nearly 10.7, which exceeds that of plumbago.

Previouſly to the deſcription of the method of obtaining the new metallic ſubſtances, this author relates the effects produced by mixing the above-mentioned powder in its entire ſtate with other metals. The moſt remarkable of thoſe effects

effects are, that it diminiſhes the fluidity of lead, and in great meaſure alſo that of biſmuth, of zinc, and of tin. It may be eaſily combined by fuſion, with ſilver or gold; but it cannot afterwards be ſeparated from thoſe noble metals, by the uſual proceſſes of refining. However, if the gold or ſilver containing that powder be diſſolved, the black powder will remain in the veſſel.

Referring our readers to the paper itſelf for the method of obtaining the new metallic ſubſtances, and likewiſe for their peculiar properties, we ſhall only add, that Mr. Tennant has given the name of *Iridium* to one of thoſe ſubſtances, from the ſtriking variety of colours which it gives while diſſolving in marine acid; and has called the other *Oſmium*, from the peculiar ſmell of its very volatile oxide.

XVII. *On a new Metal, found in crude Platina.* By William Hyde Wollaſton, M. D. F. R. S.

Beſides thoſe diſcovered by Mr. Tennant, two other metallic ſubſtances have been obtained from Platina. One of thoſe, which principally forms the ſubject of the preſent paper, has been called *Rhodium* by its diſcoverer, Dr. Wollaſton, from the roſe colour of a dilute ſolution of the ſalts containing it.

After ſeveral preliminary obſervations, and after mentioning that the platina on which he operated had been freed from the particles of gold, and of mercury, which are generally mixed with it in the ſtate in which it is uſually brought to Europe; this author deſcribes the method of obtaining the rhodium, and likewiſe its properties. The principal part of this deſcription is as follows:

"Of the ore," he ſays, "thus prepared, nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces were then diſſolved in nitro-muriatic acid, (diluted for the purpoſe of leaving as much as poſſible of the ſhining powder,) and the whole ſuffered to remain in a moderate ſand heat, till completely ſaturated.

"Such a portion of this ſolution was then taken for analyſis, as correſponded to 1000 grains of the prepared ore. An ounce of ſal ammoniac was next diſſolved in hot water, and uſed for the precipitation of the platina. The precipitate obtained was of a yellow colour, and, upon being heated, yielded 815 grains of purified platina.

"The water uſed for waſhing this precipitate having been added to the ſolution poured from it, a piece of clean zinc was immerſed in it, and ſuffered to remain, till there appeared to be no further action upon the zinc. The iron contained in the ore (to the amount of 14 or 15 per cent.) remained in ſolution. The

other

other metals had ſubſided, in the form of a black powder, which I eſtimated between 40 and 50 grains; but, as there was no occaſion to weigh it with accuracy, I thought it better not to dry this precipitate, for, if it be heated, the rhodium is in danger of being rendered inſoluble.

" As I had previouſly aſcertained that this precipitate would contain platina, rhodium, the ſubſtance called palladium, copper, and lead, the two laſt metals were firſt diſſolved in very dilute nitric acid, aided by a gentle heat. The remainder, after being waſhed, was digeſted in dilute nitro-muriatic acid, which diſſolved the greater part, but left as much as $4\frac{1}{2}$ grains undiſſolved *.

" To the ſolution were added 20 grains of common ſalt; and, when the whole had been evaporated to dryneſs with a very gentle heat, the reſiduum, which I had found, from prior experiments, would conſiſt of the ſoda-muriates of platina, of palladium, and of rhodium, was waſhed repeatedly with ſmall quantities of alcohol, till it came off nearly colourleſs. There remained a triple ſalt of rhodium, which by theſe means is freed from all metallic impurities.

" This ſalt, having been diſſolved in a ſmall quantity of hot water, and let to ſtand twelve hours, formed rhomboidal cryſtals, of which the acute angle was about 75°.

" It was then again diſſolved in water, and divided into two equal portions. Of theſe, one was decompoſed by a piece of zinc, and the other examined by the following reagents.

" Sal ammoniac occaſioned no precipitation; but, when a ſolution of platina was added to the mixture, a precipitate was immediately formed, and the colour of this precipitate was yellow; which again proves that the metal contained in this ſalt, is neither platina itſelf nor that which gives the red colour to its precipitates.

" Pruſſiate of potaſh occaſioned no precipitation, as it would have done, if the ſolution had contained palladium.

" Hydro-ſulphuret of ammonia, which would have precipitated either platina or palladium, cauſed no precipitation of this metal.

" The carbonates of potaſh, of ſoda, or of ammonia, occaſioned no precipitation; but the pure alkalis precipitated a yellow oxide, ſoluble by exceſs of alkali, and alſo ſoluble in every acid that I have tried.

" The ſolution of this oxide in muriatic acid, upon being evaporated, did not cryſtallize; the reſiduum was ſoluble in

* It was preſumed that this reſiduum conſiſted principally of the metal called by Mr. Tennant Iridium; but, as it was accidentally miſlaid, and was not examined, it might alſo contain a portion of rhodium.

alcohol,

alcohol, and of a roſe colour. Sal ammoniac, nitre, or common ſalt, cauſed no precipitation from the muriatic ſolution; but formed triple ſalts, which were not ſoluble in alcohol.

"The ſolution in nitric acid alſo did not cryſtallize. A drop of this ſolution, being placed upon pure ſilver, occaſioned no ſtain. On the ſurface of mercury a metallic film was precipitated, but did not appear to amalgamate. The metal was alſo precipitated by copper and other metals, as might be preſumed, from the uſual order of their affinities for acids.

"The precipitate obtained by zinc from the remaining half of the ſalt, appeared in the form of a black powder, weighing, when thoroughly dried, nearly two grains, correſponding to about four grains in the 1000 of ore diſſolved.

"When expoſed to heat, this powder continued black; with borax, it acquired a white metallic luſtre, but appeared infuſible by any degree of heat.

"With arſenic, however, it is, like platina, rendered fuſible; and, like palladium, it may alſo be fuſed by means of ſulphur. The arſenic, or the ſulphur, may be expelled from it by a continuance of the heat; but the metallic button obtained does not become malleable, as either of the preceding metals would be rendered by ſimilar treatment.

"It unites readily with all metals that have been tried, excepting mercury; and, with gold or ſilver, it forms very malleable alloys, that are not oxidated by a high degree of heat, but become incruſted with a black oxide, when very ſlowly cooled.

"When four parts of gold are united with one of rhodium, although the alloy may aſſume a rounded form under the blowpipe, yet it ſeems to be more in the ſtate of an amalgam than in complete fuſion." P. 422.

This ſecond part of the volume of the Philoſophical Tranſactions for the year 1804, concludes with the uſual liſt of preſents made to the Royal Society ſince November 1803, together with the names of the donors, and the general index for both parts of the volume.

ART.

ART. III. *General Biography; or, Lives, Critical and Hiſtorical, of the moſt eminent Perſons of all Ages, Countries, Conditions, and Profeſſions, arranged according to Alphabetical Order. Compoſed by John Aikin, M. D. the Rev. Thomas Morgan, and Mr. William Johnſon.* Vol. V. 11. 16s. pp. 643. Johnſon. 1804.

IN our review of the II. III. and IV. volumes of this work, (Britiſh Critic, vol. XXIII. p. 632), we entered ſo fully into what we conceived as its merits and defects, that it may now ſeem unneceſſary to repeat our ſentiments. In the preſent volume we perceive little difference of plan or principle. On theſe the reſpective authors appear to be agreed, and it is not very probable that any remonſtrance on our part will have much weight. It becomes us, nevertheleſs, to apprize our readers from time to time of what they have to expect: and we ſhould ill-perform the duties of our ſtation, and ill-ſupport our avowed principles, if we did not watch the progreſs of a work which, with much ability and judgment in its compoſition, bears a leſs friendly aſpect to the intereſts of the eſtabliſhed religion than we could wiſh, or than, in fact, we have a right to expect from writers whoſe profeſſions of candour and impartiality are ſo warm. We ſhall therefore take the liberty of animadverting on a few articles in this volume, although at the hazard of repeating what we have advanced before, and in doing this it is very far from our intention to withhold the praiſe due to the induſtry and taſte of the principal writer (Dr. Aikin), or to inſinuate that there is not upon the whole a preponderance of valuable and well-digeſted biography in this undertaking.

The volume before us includes the ſeries of lives under letters H. and I. extending to 643 pages. We cannot be expected to have peruſed every part of it with a critical eye, yet having examined a very conſiderable proportion of the lives of perſons in various profeſſions, we think it but juſtice to ſay, that much caution has been employed in caſes where it was natural to expect that the peculiar opinions of the writers would have been expreſſed with more deciſion and warmth. In diſputed caſes, or where they found it neceſſary to withhold the praiſe which men of a different way of thinking would have beſtowed, they have confined themſelves to a ſimple detail of facts. We allude, in theſe remarks, principally to ſuch lives as thoſe of Heylyn, Hooker, Hyde, (Lord Clarendon), &c.; men whoſe principles muſt naturally be at variance with thoſe of their biographers. Of this ſpecies

of

of caution we cannot, perhaps, give our readers a more ſatisfactory idea than by quoting what is ſaid of Clarendon's hiſtory:

"Lord Clarendon writes like a man who has taken a decided part: and in his moral eſtimate of perſons and things, aſſumes as principles the juſtice of the ſide to which he attached himſelf, and the criminality of the oppoſite. But with this allowance, his repreſentations are uſually fair and moderate."

There is at leaſt urbanity in this cenſure, although we are not quite ſure that it is philoſophically conſiſtent. In our opinion, the hiſtory in queſtion, demanded a much higher and more decided eulogium, even on the ſcore of impartiality.

On the other hand, the lives of ſuch men as John Hampden, Thomas Hollis, and Dr. John Jebb, are written with all the enthuſiaſm of veneration. An averſion to eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhments, and an attachment to ſocinian principles, ſeem to demand no concealment, except the thin veil of "freedom of inquiry," or "rights of conſcience," or the "purſuit of truth."

Of the new lives, we ſhall extract two, as a general ſpecimen of this volume. The firſt, as far as we remember, is original;—the ſecond is that of a man recently deceaſed, and whoſe virtues and zeal are yet freſh in the remembrance of our readers.

"Edward Harwood, an Engliſh proteſtant diſſenting divine, and good claſſical ſcholar, was born at a village in Lancaſhire in the year 1729. He was inſtructed in grammar learning by able maſters, firſt at Darwin, and afterwards at Blackburn, in the ſame county; and when he was properly qualified to enter on academic ſtudies, was placed in one of the inſtitutions for educating diſſenting miniſters, which were ſupported by Mr. Coward's funds. In this ſeminary he continued five years, which he ſpeaks of as the only blank in his life; declaring that what ſyſtems of ethics and divinity he learned, he afterwards took pains entirely to unlearn. Upon quitting this academy he taught a boarding-ſchool at Peckham in the vicinity of London, and preached occaſionally in different pulpits in that city. While he continued in this employment, he ſtudiouſly improved his acquaintance with the Greek and Roman claſſics, and was honoured with the friendly attentions of Dr. Benſon and Dr. Lardner, two of the moſt learned miniſters among the proteſtant diſſenters, and men highly reſpected in the republic of letters. In the year 1754 Mr. Harwood removed to Congleton in Cheſhire, where he undertood the care of a grammar-ſchool, and preached for ſome years, on alternate Sundays, to two ſmall ſocieties in that neighbourhood. In the year 1765 he accepted of an invitation to become

become paſtor of a ſmall congregation at Briſtol, with whom he continued about five years, and then found it neceſſary to take his leave of that city. According to his own account, he was compelled to this ſtep, on account of the odium which he had incurred, in conſequence of having publiſhed a ſecond edition of a treatiſe "On the Supremacy of the Father," written by one Williams, and the calumnies propagated againſt him in the Briſtol paper, of his being an Arian, a Socinian, a Deiſt, and worſe than a Deiſt; which excited ſuch prejudices againſt him that his ſalary diminiſhed every year, and the laſt year, though he had a numerous family, it fell conſiderably. But there was another circumſtance which contributed to leſſen the number of his ſupporters, and conſequently to diminiſh his ſalary, and that was a charge which was preferred againſt him of immoralities; from which he was not able ſo ſatisfactorily to exculpate himſelf, as to warrant the expectation of further employment in the profeſſion to which he had been educated. While he was at Briſtol, he informs us, that he read carefully the Greek fathers of the firſt three centuries; and during this period, if we are not miſtaken, he obtained the degree of doctor of divinity from one of our northern univerſities. Upon Dr. Harwood's quitting Briſtol he came to London, where he made an unſucceſsful application for a place then vacant in the Britiſh Muſeum; but he ſays that his diſappointment was happy rather than otherwiſe, ſince he ſoon afterwards obtained a ſituation that was more profitable. This was, we believe, in the line of private tuition; by means of which, together with other literary engagements, he was enabled to procure a ſufficient maintenance for himſelf and family. He died in 1794, when about ſixty-five years of age, after having ſuffered much during a confinement of fourteen years, in conſequence of a paralytic attack, which deprived him of the uſe of his left ſide. Dr. Harwood was the author of various works, poſſeſſing different degrees of merit; of which the principal were, "An Introduction to the Study of the New Teſtament," 1767, octavo; a new "Tranſlation of the New Teſtament," 1768, in two volumes octavo; "Five Diſſertations on the Athanaſian Doctrine, the Socinian Scheme, the Perſon of Chriſt, &c." 1772, octavo; "The Life and Character of Jeſus Chriſt delineated," 1773, octavo; "A View of the various Editions of the Greek and Roman Claſſics," 1775, octavo; an edition of "The New Teſtament in Greek, with Notes in Engliſh," 1776, in two volumes octavo; "Sermons," 1776, octavo; "The Melancholy Doctrine of Predeſtination expoſed, and the delightful Truth of Univerſal Redemption repreſented," 1778, octavo; "The great Duty and Delight of Contentment," 1783, octavo, &c. Of the above-mentioned performances, that which contributes moſt to the author's reputation as a ſcholar, is his "View of the various Editions of the Greek and Roman Claſſics," which, though an imperfect, is a valuable work, and has not only undergone repeated impreſſions in this country, but has alſo been tranſlated into ſeveral foreign languages.

guages. Of late different propoſals have been laid before the public for enlarged and improved editions of it." P. 73.

This is no unfaithful portrait of that reſtleſs variety of opinion which leads ſectaries from eſtabliſhed truths to all the whims and reveries of infidelity. We knew ſomething of Dr. Harwood, and reſpected his claſſical knowledge, but beyond that there was nothing in his character to be reſpected. He retained at laſt ſcarcely any of the principles which are diſtinctive of the chriſtian faith, and his beſt friends could ſay little of the morals by which theſe were ſupplanted. With regard to his application for a place then vacant in the Britiſh Muſeum, it is probable that the character which followed him from Briſtol, occaſioned his diſappointment; but as to "that diſappointment being rather happy than otherwiſe," he appears to have deceived himſelf, and the writer of this article. His ſituation was not long profitable, either from private tuition or literary engagements, (of the latter we know no inſtance), and for the laſt fourteen years of his life he was, according to this account, confined by the conſequences of a paralytic ſtroke, during which he was maintained chiefly by charitable contributions, and was one of the firſt to whom the benefits of the Literary Fund were extended.

"William Jones, a pious and worthy clergyman of the church of England in the eighteenth century, was the ſon of Morgan Jones, a Welſh gentleman, deſcended from colonel Jones, who married a ſiſter of Oliver Cromwell, and was born at Lowick in Northamptonſhire, in the year 1726. He early diſcovered an inquiſitive temper, and induſtry in acquiring knowledge, and when he was of a proper age, was admitted a ſcholar at the Charter-houſe, in London, where he made a rapid progreſs in the Latin and Greek languages. Here alſo he gave indications of a turn for philoſophical ſtudies, and copied ſome tables and calculations of Mr. Zachary Williams, the father of Dr. Johnſon's Mrs. Williams, belonging to a magnetical theory which that gentleman had formed, but which was never given to the public. When Mr. Jones was about eighteen years of age, he was entered of Univerſity college, Oxford, on a Charter-houſe exhibition, and in that ſeminary purſued the uſual courſe of ſtudies with unremitted diligence. His moſt intimate acquaintance in college appears to have been with gentlemen who were inclined to Mr. Hutchinſon's opinions in theology and philoſophy; and from his converſation with them, as well as the examination of that gentleman's writings, he was induced to become a convert to his doctrines. To the ſame ſyſtem he was inſtrumental in attaching his intimate friend Mr. (afterwards biſhop) Horne, as we have already ſeen in the life of that prelate. Mr. Jones was admitted to the degree of B. A. in the year

year 1749, and ſoon afterwards received deacon's orders from the biſhop of Peterborough. In 1751, he was ordained prieſt by the biſhop of Lincoln, and on quitting the univerſity became curate at Finedon in Northamptonſhire. While he was in this ſituation, he publiſhed, in 1753, his "Full Anſwer to Biſhop Clayton's Eſſay on Spirit," or rather the eſſay which his lordſhip adopted; in which he endeavoured to ſupport the cauſe of orthodoxy by an appeal to the religion and learning of heathen antiquity, particularly the notions of the hermetic, Pythagorean, and Platonic trinities. In the year 1754, he formed a happy matrimonial connection, and went to reſide at Wadenhoe in Northamptonſhire, as curate to his brother-in-law, the Rev. Brooke Bridges. In this place he drew up and publiſhed, in what year we are not informed, his "Catholic Doctrine of the Trinity," octavo; which was favourably received by the orthodox world, and was enlarged in the third edition, which appeared in 1767, by a "Letter to the common People, in Anſwer to ſome popular Arguments againſt the Trinity." Here alſo he engaged in a courſe of experiments, neceſſary to his compoſing a treatiſe on philoſophy, in elucidation of his favourite ſyſtem; and met with liberal friends, who, by a ſubſcription among themſelves of three hundred pounds per annum for three years, enabled him to furniſh himſelf with ſuch an apparatus as he wanted. The reſult of his labours was "An Eſſay on the firſt Principles of Natural Philoſophy," publiſhed in 1762, quarto, intended to demonſtrate the uſe of natural means, or ſecond cauſes, in the œconomy of the material world, from reaſon, experiments, and the teſtimony of antiquity. It was deſigned as a preparatory work, to obviate the objections againſt the ſyſtem for which he was an advocate, founded on the Newtonian philoſophy; and it diſplayed conſiderable learning and ingenuity, as well as an ardent attachment to the intereſts of piety and virtue, united with the eccentric peculiarities of the Hutchinſonian ſchool. The earl of Bute was ſo well ſatisfied with it, that he deſired the author not to be intimidated through fear of the expence from purſuing his philoſophical ſtudies, but to direct Mr. Adams, the mathematical inſtrument-maker, to ſupply him with ſuch inſtruments as he might want, and to place them to his lordſhip's account.

"In the year 1764, archbiſhop Secker preſented Mr. Jones to the vicarage of Bethersden in Kent, whither he removed with his family; and when he afterwards found that the income of his benefice was not equal to what he expected, in purſuance of the advice of his friends, he undertook the tuition of a few pupils. For ſuch an office he was well qualified by his ſkill in the learned languages, his various knowledge, his great induſtry, and his perſpicuous eaſy manner of communicating inſtruction. In the year 1765, archbiſhop Secker preſented Mr. Jones to the rectory of Pluckley in the ſame county, where he took up his reſidence, and continued his plan of education, purſuing at the ſame time his courſe of philoſophical experiments, as well as theological ſtudies, and diſcharging

his

his paſtoral duties with exemplary zeal and diligence. In the year 1769, he publiſhed "A letter to a Young Gentleman at Oxford, intended for Holy Orders, containing ſome ſeaſonable Cautions againſt Errors in Doctrine," octavo; conſiſting, chiefly, of the ſubſtance of a viſitation ſermon preached before archbiſhop Secker in 1766. His ſubſequent publications during his continuance at Pluckley were, ſome remarks on the principles and ſpirit of "The Confeſſional," annexed to a new edition of his "Anſwer to an Eſſay on Spirit," &c. 1770, octavo; "Zoologia Ethica: a Diſquiſition concerning the Moſaic Diſtinction of Animals, clean and unclean; being an Attempt to explain to Chriſtians the Wiſdom, Morality, and Uſe of that Inſtitution, in two Parts," 1772, octavo; "Three Diſſertations on Life and Death," 1772, octavo; a volume of "Diſquiſitions on ſome ſelect Subjects of Scripture," which had been before ſeparately printed, 1773, octavo; and "Reflexions on the Growth of Heatheniſm among Chriſtians, in a Letter to a Friend at Oxford, by a Preſbyter of the Church of England," 1776, octavo. About this time Mr. Jones was induced to remove from Pluckley, and to accept of the perpetual curacy of Nayland in Suffolk. Soon afterwards he effected an exchange of Pluckley for the rectory of Paſton in Northamptonſhire, which he viſited annually; but took up his abode at Nayland, which no future offer of preferment tempted him to quit. In the mean time he had entered a member of Sydney college in the univerſity of Cambridge, where he was admitted to the degree of M. A. From the title of his next publication, Mr. Jones appears to have been admitted a fellow of the Royal Society; but we have no information concerning the time when this honour was conferred upon him. The work to which we allude, was his "Phyſiological Diſquiſitions: or Diſcourſes concerning the natural Philoſophy of the Elements," 1781, quarto. This performance contains diſcourſes on matter, and the ſeveral kinds of bodies; on the nature and cauſes of motion; on the nature and uſes of the elements; on fire, its properties and effects; on the nature and properties of air; on the philoſophy of muſical ſounds; on foſſil bodies; on phyſical geography, or, the natural hiſtory of the earth; and on the appearances, cauſes, and prognoſtic ſigns, of the weather. They contain much inſtructive, much entertaining, and much fanciful matter, ingeniouſly applied in an attempt to inveſtigate the cauſes of things, and to conſtruct a theory of nature on the principles of the author's favourite ſyſtem. Mr. Jones's next publication was theological, and conſiſted of "Lectures on the figurative Language of the Holy Scripture, and the Interpretation of it from the Scripture itſelf," 1788, octavo; which contain a mixture of judicious and valuable explanations of ſcripture metaphors, with others in which the author has given full ſcope to his lively imagination.

"In diſcharging the duties of his paſtoral office, Mr. Jones paid particular attention to the young people of his pariſh, whom he inſtructed

ſtructed privately in his own houſe and publicly in the church, by a courſe of catechetical lectures adapted to their capacities; and as he was zealouſly attached to the eſtabliſhment of which he was a miniſter, he endeavoured to ſecure their adherence to its communion, not only by the repreſentations which he laid before them of the nature of the church, and the ſinfulneſs of ſchiſm, but by different ſmall treatiſes, ſuch as "An Eſſay on the Church," the "Churchman's Catechiſm," &c. That theſe labours were not inefficacious among his pariſhioners, he had reaſon to conclude from the increaſe which he had the ſatisfaction to ſee in the number of thoſe who attended at the ſacrament. In the year 1790 our author publiſhed two volumes of "Sermons on moral and religious Subjects," octavo; which are chiefly of a practical and uſeful tendency, and include ſome diſcourſes on natural hiſtory, delivered at Mr. Fairchild's annual lecture at Shoreditch church, of which the preacher is appointed by the Royal Society. They reflect credit on the author's piety and benevolence; but his fondneſs for the introduction into them of allegories and ſpiritual alluſions, renders many of his remarks and illuſtrations not eaſily intelligible to plain and common readers. In the year 1792, alarmed for the ſafety of the Britiſh conſtitution, which he conceived to be in danger from the growing prevalence of democratical principles, and alſo for the exiſtence of the eſtabliſhed church and creed, againſt which he was led to believe that the aſſiduity of ſectaries, free enquirers, and unbelievers, was directed, Mr. Jones employed his pen in the ſervice of high-church politics. He was the author of "A Letter from Thomas Bull to his Brother John," which was induſtriouſly circulated throughout the kingdom by the friends of adminiſtration; and he drew up and publiſhed proſpectus of a plan of a ſociety "for the reformation of principles," the eſtabliſhment of which he had long meditated. To whatever cauſe it was owing, however, his efforts to form ſuch a ſociety did not ſucceed. In connexion with thoſe efforts he gave birth to "The Britiſh Critic;" and publiſhed a collection of tracts by Charles Leſlie, Mr. Law, Mr. Norris, Roger North, biſhop Horne, our author, &c. in two volumes octavo, under the title of "The Scholar armed againſt the Errors of the Time; or, a Collection of Tracts on the Principles and Evidence of Chriſtianity, the Conſtitution of Church and Authority of Civil Government." During the year laſt mentioned Mr. Jones met with a ſevere loſs in the death of his intimate friend biſhop Horne, to whom he was chaplain, and whoſe life he undertook the taſk of recording. This work made its appearance in the year 1795, entitled, "Memoirs of the Life, Studies, and Writings of the Right Reverend George Horne, D. D. late Lord Biſhop of Norwich," octavo; which, though it cannot be commended as a very regular and well-digeſted biographical production, is written, on the whole, in an intereſting and pleaſing manner, and contains a warm and affectionate tribute of reſpect to the memory of that prelate. To a ſecond edition of it, publiſhed in

1799,

1799, Mr. Jones prefixed a concise exposition of Mr. Hutchinson's leading theological and philosophical opinions.

Our author now was become advanced in age, and was obliged by his infirmities to discontinue his practice of taking pupils. That he might not be subjected to any inconvenience from the diminution of his income which was thus created, in the year 1798, the archbishop of Canterbury benevolently presented him to the sinecure rectory of Hollingbourn in Kent; which, however, he did not live long to enjoy. The last publication which he sent into the world was "A Discourse on the Use and Intention of some remarkable Passages of the Scriptures, not commonly understood; addressed to the Readers of a Course of Lectures on the figurative Language of the Holy Scriptures," 1799, octavo. Soon after this, he sustained a heavy loss by the death of his wife, which plunged him in deep affliction; and that trial was in a short time followed by a paralytic attack, which deprived him of the use of one side. His faculties, however, remained uninjured, and he speedily recovered so far as to be able to walk with a stick, and to write. In this infirm state of body he lived some months, and at length expired without a sigh or a groan, February 6, 1800, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. Mr. Jones's learning was very respectable; his attachment to what he considered to be truth steady and zealous; his piety ardent and animated; his moral conduct not only irreproachable but highly exemplary; and his temper and manners placid, humble, and obliging. As far as his means extended, he delighted in doing good; and towards his flock he uniformly behaved as a vigilant affectionate pastor. To his other knowledge he added that of physic, which he commendably applied to the relief and comfort of his poorer neighbours. Of the establishment of which he was a minister he was an intrepid champion, on what are commonly called high-church principles; and of the theologico-philosophical system of the Hutchinsonian school he is justly considered to be the most ingenious and plausible defender. Besides the pieces enumerated in the preceding narrative, he published numerous single sermons, and occasional tracts, the titles of some of which may be found in our authorities *. We have only to add, that Mr. Jones was a proficient in the theory and practice of music; and that he composed a morning and evening cathedral-service, ten church-pieces for the organ, with four anthems in score for the use of the church of Nayland, which are said to be greatly admired, as of the old school, and in the true classical style." P. 562.

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* When it is said above, that "*he gave birth to the* BRITISH CRITIC," it should be understood only, that he formed the Society in which it was first proposed. But he took no active part, nor ever wrote a single sentence in it. *Rev.*

David Hume is treated as he deſerves in this volume: we are particularly pleaſed with the following remarks on Dr. Adam Smith's exaggerated opinion, that "he approached as nearly to the idea of a perfectly wiſe and virtuous man, as, perhaps, the nature of human frailty will permit."

"This is a portrait," ſays Dr. Aikin, "drawn by a friend, &c. We may, however, reaſonably demur to Dr. Smith's moral eſtimate in attributing the perfection of virtue to a man whoſe leading principle was, by his own confeſſion, ſelfiſh, (the acquiſition of literary fame) and who never ſeems to have made any of thoſe ſacrifices of intereſt and inclination to public good, in which virtuous action chiefly conſiſts. Further, whatever degree of freedom of diſcuſſion may be juſtifiable with the benefits of mankind in view, it may be doubted whether a mere fondneſs for ſpeculation, or a love of philoſophic applauſe, will morally excuſe a writer for ſporting with opinions which are commonly held of the higheſt importance to human welfare."

In the life of Dr. Samuel Johnſon, however, we are ſorry to obſerve, becauſe it has the ſame ſignature as the preceding, that of Dr. Aikin, a diſpoſition, if not to depreciate the virtues and talents of that eminent man, at leaſt to repreſent them in that cold and diſreſpectful manner which implies more than is expreſſed. His character is thus drawn in part:

"Endowed with a corporeal and mental frame originally firm, powerful, and rugged, Johnſon made his way erect and unyielding, through the obſtacles and diſcouragements of penury, more laudable in the aſſertion of independence than cenſurable for the pride of ſuperior talents. But when arrived at the pinnacle of reputation, the laviſh admiration and ſubmiſſive deference with which he was treated, nouriſhed his ſelf-conſequence and poſitiveneſs to ſuch a degree, that he became offenſively dictatorial and impatient of contradiction. In converſation, he aſſumed a ſuperiority which ſilenced all fair diſcuſſion; and when he condeſcended to argue, it was only for a victory made as humiliating as poſſible to his opponent. This diſpoſition prevented him from making any progreſs in ſubduing that bigotry and intolerance of opinion with which he ſet out in life, and which in ſeveral reſpects adhered to him with more force than to any of his literary contemporaries. His arrogant rudeneſs often carried him not only beyond the bounds of politeneſs, but of humanity. Yet he had a fund of kindneſs and benevolence in his nature, which was continually diſplaying itſelf in acts of ſubſtantial generoſity: and he was capable of a warmth of affection which did honour to his feelings. No man was more ſuperior

to artifice or diſguiſe: if he was an enemy, he was an open one: and where he profeſſed friendſhip, his ſincerity might be relied upon, &c. &c."

The remainder of this character appears to us equally harſh with what we have copied, and certainly does not appear to be all fairly deduced from the reports made by thoſe who were moſt intimately connected with Dr. Johnſon. We are, however, ſtill more diſpoſed to differ from Dr. A. in his opinion of Dr. Johnſon's writings. "As a writer," he aſſerts, that "he was more remarkable for the manner in which he preſented his thoughts than for the thoughts themſelves." To this we can only oppoſe, that if Dr. Johnſon's thoughts have no intrific merit, or leſs merit than his manner, which ſeems to be implied here, it will be difficult to find any Engliſh writer with more copious powers of rich and original thoughts, unleſs indeed, which too frequently is the caſe with ſome critics, we reſerve that praiſe for the dealers in metaphyſical paradox, and for thoſe who acquire a merit with their admirers, in proportion as they depart from the illuſtration of eſtabliſhed truths, and indulge in that capricious union of imagination and conjecture, which is often dignified by the name of philoſophy.—On the whole, therefore, we are of opinion that, without the imputation of partiali y, this life might have been animated by a much higher degree of reſpect for a man of whom it may be truly ſaid, that he was admired moſt by thoſe who knew him beſt; and that no degree of intimacy was ever known to diminiſh the veneration with which he was contemplated at the firſt interview.

In our account of the former volumes of this work, we noticed the introduction of the ſeries of kings, princes, popes, &c. as belonging rather to the province of hiſtory; and the articles of this kind, which occur in the preſent volume, and occupy a fourth part of it, make us ſtill regret that they ſhould conſtitute a portion of the plan. In the life of Lord Clarendon, the writer declines giving a detail of the tranſactions of his miniſtry, becauſe "it belongs rather to hiſtory than biography." Surely this may be ſaid with as much juſtice of the Henries, Johns, and Jameses in this volume: nor can we ſee the neceſſity of filling ſo many pages with the characters recorded in Sacred Writ. It is needleſs, however, to conteſt the propriety of what has irrevocably been admitted into the plan, and which for aught we know, may be acceptable to the readers of this work.

But while we ſubmit to this incumbrance, we may advert to another topic handled in our former review, we mean, the very unequal ſpaces allotted to certain characters without

any right claims. Of this inequality we gave ſome ſingular proofs on that occaſion, and have to remark, that the preſent volume is not without inſtances equally ſtriking and unaccountable. Sir Matthew Hale has only three columns for the detail of his long and intereſting public and private life, and Biſhop Hall about two, while Hopton Haynes has more than the latter, and nearly as much as the former. Our readers may perhaps aſk who is Hopton Haynes? We anſwer in the language of the Rev. Mr. Morgan, his biographer, who has a prolix reſpect for ſuch characters, that Hopton Haynes was "a learned and able advocate for *Unitarian* doctrines."—Hearne, the antiquary, has not quite a column: and Hogarth about three, but Thomas Hobbes is honoured by an article extending to twelve, and in this, by the way, we have a ſpecimen of Mr. Morgan's reſpect for the whole body of the Engliſh clergy, which, perhaps, will diminiſh their reſpect for him. After ſtating that "the whole body of the Engliſh clergy" took the alarm at the publication of the "Leviathan," he adds, that "The indignation which it excited amongſt them was probably in a great meaſure owing to the freedom with which it inveighs againſt *eccleſiaſtical tyranny!*"

On the unequal allottments of ſpace, we may alſo remark that we have a neat abridgement of Lord Teignmouth's Life of Sir William Jones, in nine columns, from the judicious pen of Dr. Aikin, while Mr. Morgan obliges us with a hiſtory of Joſeph and his brethren of the ſame extent, and one of Jacob which is two columns longer. Surely ſuch diſproportions are in ſome meaſure ridiculous, and if all objections to the introduction of hiſtorical narratives could be anſwered, ſtill the public have a right to expect that thoſe articles ſhould obtain a preference about which biographical curioſity has moſt occaſion to be informed.

Among the omiſſions in this volume the following names may, in our opinion, be mentioned without any diſreſpect to an equal number of thoſe admitted—Theodore Haak, William Habington, Hamilton of Bangour, Gavin Hamilton, Sir William Hamilton, Anthony Hammond, Sir Thomas Hanmer, Nicholas Hardinge, Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, Walter Harte, Archbiſhop Harſnet, Sir Chriſtopher Hatton, Dr. Ralph Heathcote, William Herbert, Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, Robert Herrick, John Heywood, Eliza Heywood, John Hewit, William Hewſon, Sir Thomas Higgons, Bevil Higgons, Joſeph Highmore, Arthur Hilderſham, Dr. John Hinckley, Thomas Hoccleve, William Holden, Edward Holdſworth, Barton Holyday, Francis Holyoake, Dr. Hope, Houbraken, Dr. Robert James, Sir Joſeph Jekyl, Archbiſhop

Archbiſhop Juxon, &c. Theſe names, our readers may perhaps obſerve, belong to the Engliſh ſeries, and they are mentioned for that reaſon. The Engliſh ſeries is in every work of this kind of moſt importance, firſt, becauſe foreign compilers have not only paid very little attention to it, but have even ſhown a marked neglect *, and ſecondly, becauſe foreign ſcholars, who wiſh to do honour to Engliſh literature, have no means of information but from Engliſh bi›graphies.

To the objections we have offered in this article, we ſhall not, perhaps, hereafter recur. We have ſaid enough to give our readers ſome idea of the manner in which the work has been hitherto conducted. In neatneſs and uniformity of ſtyle, accuracy of dates, and validity of authorities, in attention to the prominent features of character, the advancement of ſcience, the progreſs of genius, and the riſe and propagation of opinions, we find much to commend. Nor have we been anxious to point out errors or imperfections, unleſs in caſes where we hope to have convinced our readers that it would not have been proper to paſs them over. Dr. Aikin appears to have the reſponſibility on his ſhoulders; we think his candour and taſte may be relied upon, and only wiſh, that he would more freely exert the privilege of an editor by expunging paſſages, which may give offence to many of thoſe whom he would not be ſorry to pleaſe, and to whom his original writings have afforded unmixed gratification.

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ART. IV. *Sermons, chiefly occaſional, on important Subjects. By Samuel Martin,* D. D. *Miniſter of Monimail.* 8vo. 381 pp. 7s. 6d. Tullis, Cupar-Fife; Creech, Edinburgh; Longman and Co. London. 1804.

IT was our boaſt, in the preface to our firſt volume, and if boaſting may on any account be allowed, we truſt it ſhall ever be our boaſt, that cenſure, where it has appeared neceſſary, has been given ſometimes with reluctance, and generally "with a degree of delicacy in the manner, which might palliate, in ſome degree, the harſhneſs of the matter." This delicacy has, indeed, been carried ſo far as to offend ſome of the firſt favourers of our undertaking, who have ſaid of the *Britiſh Critic* what Steele ſaid of the *Freeholder*—"a lute is made uſe of, when a trumpet is called for."

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* The laſt edition of the Dictionnaire Hiſtorique is a curious ſample of this.

As we do not think this remark juſt, we have not profited by it. To the publiſhers of ſuch works as are calculated to injure the cauſe of religion, to excite faction in the ſtate, or ſchiſm in the church, we are not conſcious of having at any time ſhown either the ſlighteſt favour or undue delicacy; but if it be a fault in critics to treat with lenity the inconcluſive reaſonings or inelegant paſſages of ſuch writers as evidently mean well, and have failed only through inexperience, we muſt plead guilty. It is our wiſh, and has been our uniform aim, to encourage the inexperienced youth of upright intentions; and we confeſs, that we cannot cenſure with harſhneſs the crude compoſitions of even the veteran author, who, while he arrogates no peculiar merit to himſelf, labours in good earneſt, however unſucceſsfully, to make his readers wiſer and better. From this line of conduct we intend not to deviate.

But we now and then meet with an author of a very different character;—with a coxcomb, who uſhers into the world the moſt hacknied ſentiments, with a degree of vanity and ſelf-importance, which would not have become him, though thoſe ſentiments had been excluſively his own; and who, while he thus ſtruts in borrowed plumes, calling out—"*Sublimi feriam ſidera vertice*," can yet court, by the moſt cringing adulation, the ſmiles of titled ignorance. When the works of ſuch men are of a pernicious tendency, they are entitled to no mercy, and have been treated by us with merited ſcorn; but what are we to do, when their tendency (as far as they have any tendency) is to promote the cauſe of virtue and practical religion? When a man pours forth from the pulpit, or the preſs, a ſeries of moral or pious maxims, borrowed from a thouſand ſources, and clothed in the moſt inflated language, it is certainly conceivable that his effort may be productive of ſome good; though to the eye or ear of diſcernment, his own vanity, meanneſs, and want of taſte, may be all the while diſguſtingly viſible. To give a juſt character of ſuch writers, is a taſk which every reviewer has found peculiarly difficult.

"To laugh, were want of goodneſs, and of grace,
And to be gráve, exceeds all power of face."

Whether Dr. Martin's ſermons belong to this ſpecies of compoſition, we ſhall endeavour to enable the reader to judge for himſelf, by giving a conciſe view of their object, with one or two ſpecimens of the author's ſtyle and mode of reaſoning.

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In order to do this with fairneſs, it is neceſſary to premiſe, that, though eight in number, the ſermons are all conſecrated to the memory of the late Earl and Counteſs of Leven and Melville! Of this we are aſſured by the author himſelf, who may certainly claim the merit of originality in the *plan* of his work; for a ſingle funeral ſermon is as much as moſt other clergymen have been able to preach on a mixed character, and generally more than an audience of taſte and piety can hear with patience. Such, however, were the tranſcendent merits of this author's hero and heroine, that he was not able, it ſeems, to do them juſtice even in *eight* ſermons of no moderate length! He was precluded from this "by his *feelings*; and by his ideas of propriety reſpecting diſcourſes from the pulpit;" but he ſupplies the *unavoidable defect*, by a fuller delineation of the Earl's character in the dedication of this volume to THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARIA, LADY NAPIER, and by a ſimilar delineation of character of the Counteſs, in an epiſtle addreſſed to the EARL OF HOPETOUN, publiſhed in the appendix. We muſt give rather a copious account of theſe two memoirs, becauſe, without ſome knowledge of their contents, no judgment can be formed of the ſermons, from ſuch extracts as our limits permit us to tranſcribe; but as we do not fully underſtand the *reaſon* aſſigned by the author for his addreſſing the volume to Lady Napier, we ſhall extract it without alteration or abridgment, that our ignorance may not injure Dr. Martin.

"The commiſſioner's miniſter, who has endeavoured, in this volume, to ſhew due reſpect to the venerable peer, whom he attended and ſerved in this capacity for a greater length of years than any of his predeceſſors in this office, naturally attaches himſelf to the nobleman who now ſuſtains the character of repreſentative majeſty, in the general aſſembly of the church of Scotland, and who employs the ſame commiſſioner's miniſter; he naturally wiſhes for the patronage of his lady; he hopes that he does not offend your ladyſhip, or deceive himſelf, in expreſſing and cheriſhing his confidence in the patronage of LADY NAPIER." P. vi.

How comes Dr. Martin to be the *Commiſſioner's miniſter?* As he is miniſter of Monimail, we can conceive how he might have been ſtyled the *Earl of Leven*'s miniſter, becauſe Melville houſe, the reſidence of the Earl, ſtands, we are informed, within the pariſh of Monimail; but does *lord Napier*—does *every* commiſſioner, or repreſentative of majeſty, live in that pariſh? But he *attended* and *ſerved*, in the capacity of miniſter, the venerable peer who is the object

of his panegyric; and he *is employed* in the ſame capacity by his ſucceſſor! All this is ſo foreign from the language of England, that we can make nothing of it. There is ſomething, likewiſe, peculiarly inaccurate in the laſt ſentence of this extract, which, if it ſtood alone, would lead the reader to ſuppoſe, that *his* (the commiſſioner's) *lady*, *your ladyſhip*, and LADY NAPIER, are three different perſons.

The author having aſſigned, in this manner, his reaſons for addreſſing Lady Napier, informs her that he intended to give a hiſtory of the *family* of Leven and Melville. This was certainly prudent; for the hiſtory of the firſt earl of Leven is already ſufficiently known. He begins, therefore, with an account of the commencement of his own connexion with the late earl, who preſented him with the church and living of Monimail. As this was done by the advice of Dr. John Erſkine and Dr. Alexander Webſter, Miniſters of the city of Edinburgh, we have a long, a warm, and we doubt not a juſt panegyric on theſe two clergymen; but when Dr. Martin ſays that this digreſſion (for ſuch he allows it to be) was neceſſary to aſſiſt *her ladyſhip* "in forming an idea of their noble friend and relation," we apprehend that he ſinks, inadvertently, the character of his own patron. Could not David, Earl of Leven, be known but as the friend and relation of two parochial clergymen? We are likewiſe ſomewhat ſurpriſed that the author ſhould ſay—"it is not my opinion only, that he (Dr. Webſter) might have filled the place of a Pitt, of a North, or an Addington, with ability," becauſe the abilities of theſe three ſtateſmen differed in ſo many important reſpects, that no individual can poſſibly reſemble them all. Had Mr. Fox, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Tierney, and even Mr. Horne Tooke, guided ſucceſſively the helm of ſtate, perhaps Dr. Martin would have diſcovered that Dr. W. might have filled the place of each of them with ability.

From the mention of Dr. Erſkine and Dr. Webſter, this author proceeds to expatiate on the hoſpitality of the Earl of Leven, more eſpecially to the clergy at the celebration of the Lord's Supper; by which it appears that the miniſter of Monimail was freed from what would otherwiſe have been a very conſiderable and inevitable expence. His lordſhip was likewiſe "an Elder, a lay Elder (was he ever ſuppoſed to be a clergyman?) in the church of Scotland." "In the communion ſervice he took his place, and performed his duty, with his brethren of the ſeſſion;" and we are aſſured that "nothing added more, or more juſtly, to the reſpect of the congregation than his mingling with them

them, and aſſiſting them in the ſolemn exerciſes of devotion!"

For *what* was the reſpect of the congregation increaſed by this conduct of his lordſhip? Not, we hope, for the ſolemn ordinance of the Lord's Supper; not ſurely for the divine author of that ordinance; not for themſelves, becauſe the Earl of Leven mingled with them! for, as there is no reſpect of perſons with God, ſo there ought to be no reſpect of perſons in the houſe of God. Perhaps the author means, that the congregation reſpected his lordſhip's Chriſtianity more than his title; and were led, by that conſideration, to pay more cheerfully to his rank, what by the laws of ſociety he could claim as his due. If this be his meaning, he bears a very proper teſtimony to the piety and good ſenſe of his pariſhioners; but as the obſervation is liable to be miſunderſtood, it ſhould have been differently expreſſed, or entirely omitted.

Dr. Martin is, indeed, far from being remarkable for the accuracy of his language, and ſometimes lampoons his patron when he means to praiſe him. Of this following is a ſtriking inſtance.

"Riding alone through his woods, one day, he found a woman ſtealing timber. (Q. fire-wood?) He aſked her to whom ſhe belonged, why ſhe uſed ſuch freedoms in *another pariſh*, why ſhe did not confine herſelf to her *maſter's grounds?* (Q. Was ſhe a ſervant or a ſlave?) Either not knowing him, or affecting not to know him, ſhe replied, "Lord Leven is a good man, Lord bleſs him! but our Laird is a devil of a man." P. xix.

Aſſuredly Lord Leven did not mean to ſay to this woman that ſhe might lawfully and innocently *ſteal* in her own pariſh; and yet ſhe could not have underſtood him to have any other meaning, if our author's account of what he ſaid be correct.

We are next told that the Melville volunteers, when his lordſhip laſt dined with them on his birth-day, cheered him when he retired, and would not ſuffer the horſes to be put to his carriage, but rapidly *carried* him (whether on their ſhoulders, or not, is not ſaid) to Melville houſe! This may have been very grateful to the good old peer; but we cannot agree with Dr. Martin, that "from little incidents and anecdotes ſuch as theſe, is ſeen what a man's character is;" for we have witneſſed ſimilar ſcenes produced in England by a hogſhead of ale, when the general character of the perſon triumphantly borne along, or dragged in his chariot, was far from being reſpected, even by the mob who huzzaed him.

"You

" You perceive (continues the doctor) in attending me thus far, that warmth of heart, under the influence of piety, friendſhip, and hoſpitality, diſtinguiſhed the Earl of Leven." We have no doubt of the fact, though the evidences which have hitherto been introduced in ſupport of it, are very ſlender. We likewiſe readily admit, on the author's teſtimony, that " the Earl and Counteſs of Leven were amiable and bright examples of conjugal affection;" but why is this piece of information followed by a ſevere expoſtulation with thoſe huſbands " who will not part with their vicious and evil habits, nor give up their haunts and companions of folly and diſſipation, and profligacy, at the inſtance of their *wives?*" The expoſtulation is perfectly juſt; but is there not ſome danger of its leading the reader to ſuppoſe that Lord Leven had been a man of profligacy and vice, till reclaimed by the influence which the Counteſs gained over him? We think, indeed, that no other ſuppoſition can be formed, eſpecially as the author concludes this part of his panegyric, with obſerving that,

" Whoever knew the mind, the heart and the character, of the Counteſs of Leven, will readily agree with me that, they who paid little attention to her were very defective in diſcernment, in taſte, in worthy qualities and diſpoſitions: and on no perſon ſo much as on her huſband, theſe imputations had been juſtly fixed, had he been inattentive to her opinion, her wiſhes and her purſuits. She entered into his ideas, he entered into her's. Conjugal affection reigned in Melville houſe." P. xxv.

Dr. Martin is, indeed, ſingularly unlucky in his attempts at eulogy. Thus

" We find the Earl, for inſtance, indulgent to his people: he orders a harveſt-home entertainment: he is preſent at the feſtivities of the reapers: we find him not only permitting them, but deſiring them, to ſee the amuſements of the day, races, reviews, &c.: he allows his ſervants to attend the drill, and to be trained to arms, without intermitting their wages: they are permitted to attend the funerals of their friends and neighbours: he attends himſelf the funerals of his tenants and old ſervants." P. xxvi.

All this was very good; but it ſurely contains no great ſubject for panegyric. Indulgence to old ſervants is not, we hope, a rare virtue in Scotland, nor the giving of *a harveſt-home entertainment*, an uncommon inſtance of kindneſs and condeſcenſion. Had the Earl prevented his ſervants from attending the funerals of their friends and neighbours, he would have proved himſelf a hard-hearted ſavage.

We are next favoured with an account of his lordſhip's feelings

feelings and behaviour, " when his beloved ſpouſe was taken away."

" He was affected: he was diſſolved: the firmneſs of a man, the ſubmiſſion of a Chriſtian, prevented not the burſt of paſſion, the warmth of expoſtulation. " O my God! O my God!" frequently eſcaped, and demonſtrated what he felt." P. xxix.

Then follows a doleful detail of his laſt appearance as Lord High Commiſſioner in the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland; of his taking leave of that reverend body; of their wailings on the occaſion, with the addreſs of the *Commiſſion* (Committee); of his attending next year in the train of Lord Napier, who ſucceeded him as the repreſentative of majeſty; of his preſiding, for the laſt time, in the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge; of his dining with the French princes at Holyrood-houſe; of his celebrating his Majeſty's birth day with the Magiſtrates of Edinburgh, when he caught cold; and of his death, in conſequence of that cold, on the 9th of June, 1802. Next comes an account of his funeral proceſſion and interment, which was ſent by the author to the Edinburgh Magazine for that month; but though he could not, he ſays, do better than preſent Lady Napier with it, we could hardly do worſe than tranſcribe it into our pages.

" And now, Madam," continues he, " in gratifying myſelf I hope I have alſo gratified you. I hope that the pleaſure I have communicated is not of a light and paſſing nature. Short, circumſcribed and imperfect as my account is, may I not expect that it will give pleaſure to others alſo? But I am eſpecially happy in the thought that the peruſal of it will be attended with the approbation of that excellence I attempt to exhibit, and with the aſpirations and efforts of a worthy ambition to reſemble him and his Counteſs, in the amiable, the worthy, and the venerable characters by which they were ſo much diſtinguiſhed." P. xxxix,

Whether Dr. Martin has by this odd kind of eulogium on his late patron, gratified Lady Napier, can be known only to her Ladyſhip; but we venture to aſſure him, though we are ſorry by doing ſo to diminiſh his happineſs, that the peruſal of it neither has been, nor will be, attended with the approbation of that excellence which he has attempted to exhibit. If the inhabitants of heaven amuſe themſelves occaſionally with the peruſal of books written on earth, a ſuppoſition which we confeſs had never occurred to us, we have too good an opinion of their taſte, to imagine that they can approve ſuch rhapſodies as this; and of Lord Leven in particular, we are willing to believe, that his preſent enjoy-

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ments are too exquiſite and full, to leave room for any gratification from fulſome flattery.

Dr. Martin's memoir of Lady Leven is in the ſame encomiaſtic ſtrain, with his ſketch of the life and character of the Earl. It is deſultory, extravagant, and not unfrequently abſurd. "This eminent ſaint," was the poſthumous daughter of William Niſbet, Eſq. of Dirleton, and was at a very early period of life initiated into all the myſteries of methodiſm, which ſeem to have been productive of their uſual effects. She was a regular attendant on the field-preaching of Mr. Whitefield; and "of her walking from the Dean in the ſummer mornings to the Orphan Hoſpital Park, ſhe uſed to ſpeak with much ſatisfaction, *contraſting* ſuch days and ſcenes with the irregular hours of too many in the preſent times!" The Phariſee in the Goſpel, likewiſe, ſpoke with much ſatisfaction of his faſting twice in the week, and paying tithes of all that he poſſeſſed, *contraſting* ſuch actions with the irregular conduct of other men, more eſpecially of the humble publican, who was praying beſide him!

But though Lady Leven belonged properly to the *connection*, as it is called, of Whitefield, and was partial "to miniſters whoſe characters and doctrines were ſimilar to his," yet ſhe valued and reſpected Mr. Weſley, honouring him for his works' ſake, and for his Maſter's ſake.

"Though ſhe was a ſteady member of the Church of Scotland, ſhe was not a bigotted Preſbyterian. She hated that bigotry, in all profeſſions, which regards with a ſuſpicious eye whatever is not attempted or effected by miniſters of one denomination. If members or miniſters of the Church of England; if Moravians, Baptiſts, Methodiſts, were zealous, and active, and ſucceſsful, in the works of benevolence, generoſity, and piety; if the eſtabliſhed clergy, or the diſſenters laboured not in vain, in bringing ſinners to God, and in diffuſing and preſerving genuine religion; ſhe rejoiced with St. Paul, and bade all God ſpeed, to uſe the language of St. John, who had theſe objects in view." P. 362.

This laxity of principle and conduct, Dr. M. terms *Catholiciſm*, and ſeems to think that it may ſupply the place of many virtues, or, like charity, cover a multitude of ſins. Yet, with no great regard to conſiſtency, he praiſes the Counteſs for being "at the *expence* of publiſhing a diſcourſe recommending union among Chriſtians;" and we heartily agree with him that this was a meritorious action, as union cannot be too earneſtly recommended: but we are not ſure that it was an inſtance of *charity* worthy of being recorded!

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Let not Lady Leven, however, ſuffer in the eſtimation of our readers, becauſe ſhe has had the misfortune to be befriended by an injudicious biographer. There are here many features of character, which, had they been drawn by almoſt any other man, would have repreſented her as an amiable, reſpectable, and exemplary Chriſtian. Her regular attendance at public worſhip; her never ſuffering the intruſions of company to intercept her private devotions; her unwearied attention to the wants of the poor; the reſignation with which ſhe ſubmitted to the diſpenſations (however ſeemingly ſevere) of Providence; and the calm fortitude with which ſhe met death, are ſo many proofs that ſhe "had exerciſed herſelf to have always a conſcience void of offence towards God and towards man." In all theſe reſpects ſhe exhibited an example worthy of imitation; and we truſt that it will be imitated, though our author has done what he could do to weaken its effect.

That the Lord's day, as this author expreſſes himſelf, "found her Ladyſhip, and ſhowed her to be given to devotion," are facts, of which we entertain not a doubt; but how abſurd is the following proof of theſe facts?

"I think it is here, my Lord, right to mention a particular inſtance of Sabbath ſanctification, or of reverence for the Lord's day, and its ſolemn exerciſes; ſhe never peruſed the letters ſhe received that day, till after public worſhip. Need I mention to your Lordſhip the reaſons of this reſolution and practice? Alas! the mind is but too ready to wander in the ſolemn exerciſes of divine worſhip, too apt to be inattentive to the truths delivered in the houſe of God, and in his name; without the temptations which may ariſe from the epiſtles of our friends, informing us of particulars that may very much affect and agitate the mind. It is good to enter fully into the ſpirit of the ſervice. After the compoſure and ſolemnity of worſhip, and attending to the doctrines of ſalvation, one is better prepared for receiving intereſting information, whether pleaſing or afflictive. I ſuppoſe it was in this way Lady Leven reaſoned. It is in this way I vindicate, or rather applaud and recommend, her wiſe and pious practice." P. 361.

This practice, as it ſurely was not wiſe, cannot be vindicated, and ought not to be recommended; and the arguments here urged in its vindication, evince only its extreme impropriety. A letter from a valued friend, whoſe handwriting is generally known, whilſt it remains unopened, muſt excite ſome anxiety in the moſt heavenly mind, which occupies a tenement of clay; and that anxiety, in ſpite of every effort, will, even in church, diſturb devotion. The

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letter, however, which, by lying unopened, is the cauſe of all this, may contain nothing of real importance, nothing which could occaſion inattention or wandering in the houſe of God; and all that anxiety, which is inſeparable from a ſtate of ſuſpenſe, and is more than perhaps any other feeling, incompatible with true devotion, might have been prevented by an action which none but a *Jew* can ſuppoſe inconſiſtent with the ſanctification of the ſabbath. Nay, the contents of a letter, however important, are, when known, much leſs likely to interrupt devotion, than anxious uncertainty about them: if they be favourable, they excite in a religious mind, feelings of gratitude for the Divine goodneſs; if they be afflictive, they point towards the only ſource of real conſolation. Had Lady Leven, for inſtance, during the American war, received a letter from the army ſealed with black, and directed by an unknown hand, ſhe would naturally have thought that it contained information of the death of her ſon; but a young ſoldier may fall in battle, in a duel, or by the ſentence of a court martial for improper behaviour; and where is the mother who, when all theſe images are preſented to her mind, would not feel comfort from having the firſt realized?

The author gives a full account of this lady's laſt illneſs; of the anxious concern of the poor about her; of her death and burial; of the ſtillneſs of the laſt ſcene, where crowds loſt all their rudeneſs and noiſe, and where the expreſſions of mourning accorded with the feelings of the heart. All this is tolerable; but when he and his anonymous friend "ſay in their haſte, that the *glory* was departed from *Melville houſe*, from *Fife*, from the *Church of Scotland*, and the RELIGIOUS WORLD;" they burleſque Scripture; do more to injure the fair fame of Lady Leven, than *they* could have done by ſtudied ſatire; and forcibly impel us to ſay—"From ſuch eulogiſts as Dr. Samuel Martin, may we and our friends be delivered!"

The ſermons, of which we are now prepared to appreciate the merits, are on, 1. "The memory of the righteous;" 2. "The praiſe of female piety;" 3. "The preſervation and tranſmiſſion of the Scriptures;" 4. "Attachment to the Church of Scotland," 5. "The enemies of the goſpel, objects of abhorrence;" 6. "Infidels an untoward generation;" 7. "Tranquillity amid wars and rumours of wars;" and 8. "The perfection and felicity of the heavenly ſtate." We ſhall give extracts from the firſt, ſecond, and fourth diſcourſes, which we truſt may enable the reader to ſolve the doubt thrown out by the learned author

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in his laſt page,—whether he ſhould conſider "this volume as *ſtill born*," or ſay of it, "exegi monumentum."

In the firſt ſermon, which was preached after the interment of the Earl of Leven, June 20, 1802; Dr. Martin, from Pſalm cxii. 6. firſt conſiders "the claims of the righteous to an endeared and honourable name;" next, "the *perpetuity* of their fame;" and concludes with "exhorting his audience to cheriſh and preſerve the memory of the righteous, eſpecially of the EARL OF LEVEN AND MELVILLE." Among the claims of the righteous to an honourable name, conjugal affection is particularly inſiſted on.

"Huſbands love your wives," ſays the Scripture. Nor is this more the command of God and the dictate of inſpiration, than the ſuggeſtion, and the imperious call of propriety, and generoſity and ſenſibility. The careleſs and indifferent in this relation, not to ſay the harſh and undutiful, cannot be eſteemed or vindicated, whatever other claims may be ſet up, or ſuppoſed, to command the reſpect and homage of the world. Where there is a defect of affection to the friend of one's boſom, the companion for life, the partner of his fortunes, the common parent of his children, there is a want of the beſt ſentiments of the heart, and the worthieſt qualities of human nature. Female delicacy, and affection, and ſenſibility, command and ſecure tender affection, and unſhaken confidence; and, therefore, the pureſt and moſt permanent enjoyment. "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou loveſt," ſays the wiſe man; nor limits the period but with death; "for that is thy portion in this life," adds he, "and in thy "labour which thou takeſt under the ſun." She is endeared to a diſcerning and worthy man, by many conſiderations. He beſt knows her good qualities: her happineſs is greatly, I had almoſt ſaid wholly, in his power: her intereſts are interwoven with his. But, eſpecially, we perceive her claims on his tendereſt affection, in every image ſhe brings into the world, of herſelf, and of their father. Their liſping tongues are eloquent, and ſucceſsfully plead for all his love. In what ſhe has felt, in what ſhe feels, in what ſhe will feel, for them; in all their ails and joys, in all their conditions, acquirements and character, in all their calamities and all their happineſs; ſhe ſilently, but effectually, renews, and heightens and ſecures that conjugal character; that union of every the moſt amiable ſentiment, that ſecures to her huſband the eſteem and approbation of the wiſe and good." P. 7.

It is needleſs, perhaps, to inform our readers, that the ſermon on "the praiſe of female piety" was "preached after the interment of the Right Hon. WILHELMINA, COUNTESS OF LEVEN AND MELVILLE!" The text is Prov. xxxi. 30. from which the Doctor diſcourſes, 1. "On the fear of the Lord in general;" 2. "On its claim to reſpect

reſpect and praiſe in the female character;" and 3. "On the praiſe to which a pious woman is entitled, and which ſhe ſhall *aſſuredly* enjoy." From this diſcourſe we extract the following paragraph, as a fair ſpecimen of the author's manner, and becauſe no man could have publiſhed it in a ſermon, who did not himſelf think it very fine. It is, indeed, of no middle character: it is either very fine, or very deſpicable.

"The text brings in view favour and beauty, not to depreciate them in themſelves; for religion and good ſenſe, no more than diſcernment and good taſte, do not neglect or deſpiſe ſymmetry of form, delicacy of feature, expreſſion of countenance, and all the nameleſs charms of a beautiful woman. But when, I beſeech you, is a beautiful woman moſt beautiful? Is it not when the mind appears in the body; when the face is the mirror in which we behold the virtues and graces that adorn the ſoul; when gentleneſs, compoſure, dignity; when generoſity, compaſſion, tenderneſs, and all the varying affections of good will; above all, when devotion, with its varying, and amiable, and heavenly affections, are ſweetly and naturally expreſſed, unconſcious the while herſelf of the regard ſhe commands? The homage due to excellence is cheerfully paid in the admiration and praiſes of a beautiful woman. In our high eſteem and forward praiſe, we are led to think of a more bleſſed ſociety, where mildneſs, and grace, and perfection reign. How naturally we do ſo, we perceive, in fancy and the fine arts employing the beauties of the female form and female grace to repreſent the angels of God; the ſerenity and dignity, the benevolence and devotion of the inhabitants of heaven." P. 66.

From theſe two extracts the reader will form his own opinion of Dr. Martin's ſtyle; for the apology which he makes for "the marks of haſte that may appear in the firſt diſcourſe," cannot be admitted. However much his time may have been occupied "in the week preceding the ſermon being preached," two years paſſed away from its being preached before it was publiſhed; and during that period, any marks of haſte which appeared on the original compoſition, might ſurely have been removed. We ſhall now give a ſpecimen of his ſkill in logic, as well as of his acquaintance with a point of ſome importance, which he undertakes to diſcuſs in his fourth ſermon.

The ſubject of the ſermon is "Attachment to the Church of Scotland," which, from 1 Cor. i. 10. he preſſes on his audience with great propriety and ſome effect; but the following paragraphs do not, ſurely, indicate a Maſter in Iſrael.

"Perhaps I ſhould not have mentioned on this occaſion, our preference of the preſbyterian to the epiſcopal churches, in which beyond all queſtion, are men eminent and diſtinguiſhed for their piety and learning, their zeal and exemplary behaviour, had not, even at this enlightened period, in this age of liberality and enlarged philanthropy, the long exploded bigotry of unchurching us altogether been revived, and aſſiduouſly propagated; and all but epiſcopal orders, in one ſenſe of the word *epiſcopal*, been repreſented as null and void, as intruſion and uſurpation. This is a doctrine ſo very abſurd, that one ſhould think it could never have been contrived or broached, not to ſay maintained and propagated, by any who are acquainted with the firſt principles of moral ſcience: a doctrine ſo harſh and cruel, one ſhould think, as never to be entertained one moment by thoſe who are acquainted with that bleſſed ſyſtem which God hath given to mankind: "God hath not given us the ſpirit of fear," of unmanly ſuperſtition and bigotry, "but of power and of love, and of a ſound mind."

"Preſerving all due reſpect for the epiſcopal churches, we obſerve, That we do not ſee from the beginning any diſtinction betwixt biſhops and preſbyters, between preſbyterian and epiſcopal powers. We ſee a greater conformity, in many things, among epiſcopal churches, to that church which we all left at the Reformation, than we think can accord with the ſimplicity of the primitive and apoſtolical churches. We know alſo, that the great objects of edification and holineſs, of comfort and joy, in the religious life, are promoted as completely by the labours of thoſe overſeers of the flock of Chriſt, who are diſtinguiſhed in our day by the name of preſbyters, as by theirs who are ſet apart for the work of the miniſtry by an uninterrupted ſucceſſion of mitred heads; and on whom, not grace only, but the very exiſtence of the human ſoul, has been repreſented as depending." P. 137.

Perhaps we have ſtudied the controverſy concerning the validity of preſbyterian orders, with as much impartiality and diligence as Dr. Martin, and read as many works on both ſides of the queſtion; but the information communicated in the laſt ſentence of this extract, is quite new to us, and ſuch as we more than ſuſpect that our author could not authenticate. Dodwell, to whom in a note he ſeems to refer, has no where repreſented "the *exiſtence of the human ſoul* as depending on the miniſtry of mitred heads;" and though that great, and let us add, good man, has indeed advanced ſome very extravagant notions in his "epiſtolary diſcourſe on the ſoul," we are not ſure, but "the Commiſſioner's miniſter" might be as well employed in ſtudy-

ing his works *, as in writing fulſome encomiums upon dead and living peers and peereſſes. From thoſe works he might certainly learn, that the reality of *a matter of fact* can never be aſcertained merely by admitting the firſt principles of *moral ſcience*; that the controverſy between epiſcopalians and preſbyterians, is altogether about *a matter of fact*; and that it is not by ſtudying the *ten commandments*, that a man can make himſelf maſter of *ancient hiſtory*, whether civil or eccleſiaſtical! Moſt of our readers, indeed, as well preſbyterians as epiſcopalians, will probably be of opinion, that though, in this extract, the author, as he ſays himſelf, "ſpeaks in a firm tone," he ſpeaks nonſenſe; and that when he ſhall chooſe to enter the liſts of controverſy, he will do well to engage with an antagoniſt of very inferior powers to thoſe of Dodwell, leſt inſtead of

——— "Monumentum ære perennius,"

he exhibits only

"Genus ſtultitiæ - - - - - - ignes
"Per medios, fluvioſque ruentis."

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ART. V. *The Lay of the Laſt Minſtrel. A Poem. By Walter Scott, Eſq.* 4to. 319 pp. 1l. 5s. Conſtable, Edinburgh: Longman and Co. London. 1805.

IT is a very legitimate part of the ſkill of a poet when he is able to exalt his own family and friends, at the ſame time that he diſplays his inventive and amuſing powers. This Mr. Scott has completely effected in the preſent poem; which is no leſs a celebration of the Scotts of Bucleugh, or Buckcleuch, and among them of Sir Walter Scott, from whom, we preſume, both his names are derived, than an illuſtration of thoſe manners with which he made us acquainted

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* If it can with truth be ſaid of any man, that "much learning made him mad," it may certainly be ſaid of Dodwell. His knowledge of ancient philoſophy, and of the opinions of the Chriſtian Fathers, has ſeldom, if ever, been ſurpaſſed; while his ingenuity was equal to his erudition. In judgment he was defective; but even amid his wildeſt paradoxes, truths are ſcattered, and hints thrown out, worthy of more attention than at preſent ſeems to be paid to them.

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in his delightful "Minſtrelſy of the Scottiſh Border;"* and, at the ſame time, a fair victory over his old bards in their own ſtyle of compoſition. We cannot conceive more talents and addreſs to be ſhown in attaining theſe ſeveral ends, than are exerted in this pleaſing poem: which at once gratifies curioſity on the ſubject of manners, intereſts the mind in the events of the tale, and excites admiration from the beauty and originality of the poetry.

The Minſtrel introduced to our notice by this poet is ſuppoſed to have ſurvived the revolution, and to be travelling near a caſtle, ſome time the reſidence of the Dukes of Buccleugh, called Newark †, on the river Yarrow, in Selkirkſhire. The dutcheſs who receives him is the widow of the Duke of Monmouth, and he ſings his lay in honour of the Scotts of Buccleuch. The lay is divided into ſix cantos, which are ſo many natural pauſes in the ſong. The deſcription of the old Minſtrel, and his admiſſion at the caſtle is good; but ſtill better, to our taſte, his diffidence, and trials of ſkill when he begins to entertain his noble audience.

"Amid the ſtrings his fingers ſtrayed,
And an uncertain warbling made—
And oft' he ſhook his hoary head.
But when he caught the meaſure wild,
The old man raiſed his face and ſmiled;
And lightened up his faded eye,
With all a poet's exſtacy!
In varying cadence, ſoft or ſtrong,
He ſwept the ſounding chords along;
The preſent ſcene, the future lot,
His toils, his wants were all forgot;
Cold diffidence, and age's froſt,
In the full tide of ſong were loſt.
Each blank in faithleſs memory void,
The poet's glowing thought ſupplied;
And, while his harp reſponſive rung,
'Twas thus the LATEST MINSTREL ſung." P. 8.

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* See Britiſh Critic, vol. XIX. p. 570.

† The caſtle of Newark upon Yarrow, is mentioned in the notes to the Minſtrelſy of the Scottiſh Border; vol. I. p. 3. It is there ſaid to have ſtood, "in a romantic and ſolitary ſituation, on the claſſical banks of the Yarrow." In the ballad we read of—"five hundred men ſhooting with bows on Newark Lee." p. 8.

The preſent poem is the beſt of all poſſible comments on the Border Minſtrelſy.

This is the conſtant meaſure of the intermediate paſſages; the lay itſelf is in a more lyric ſtrain, with thoſe occaſional licences of metre which are found in the early ballads. The opening itſelf affords ſpecimens of thoſe free cadences.

"The feaſt was over in Brankſome tower,
And the lady was gone to her ſecret bower;
Her bower that was guarded by word and by ſpell,
Deadly to hear, and deadly to tell,
Jeſu, Maria, ſhield us well!
No living wight, ſave the lady alone
Had dared to croſs the threſhold ſtone!"

Brankſome, or Branxholme, was a fortreſs belonging to the Scotts of Buccleuch, on the Teviot, about three miles above Hawick, and here the whole ſcene of the poem is laid. The incidents are many of them wild, and fanciful, but well ſuited to the ſtyle of poetry employed, and the whole compoſition is not only amuſing but intereſting. The intereſt ariſes principally from the loves of the Lady of Buccleuch's daughter Margaret, and Lord Cranſtoun, between whoſe families there ſubſiſted a deadly feud. We are ſoon told, by preternatural agents, that the planets,

"Will no kind influence deign to ſhower
On Teviot's ſide, and Brankſome's tower,
Till pride be quelled, and love be free;" P. 20.

and the unexpected fulfilment of theſe oracular conditions forms the *denouement* of the poem. The lay abounds in every part with characteriſtic delineations, and has frequent paſſages of genuine poetry. To the former claſs belongs the following picture of a border knight, in the perſon of William of Deloraine.

"A ſtark moſs-trooping Scot was he,
As e'er couch'd border lance by knee.
Through Solway ſands, through Tarras moſs,
Blindfold he knew the paths to croſs:
By wily turns, by deſperate bounds,
Had baffled Percy's beſt blood-hounds;
In Eſke, or Liddell, fords were none,
But he would ride them one by one;
Alike to him was time or tide,
December's ſnow, or July's pride;
Alike to him was tide or time,
Moonleſs midnight, or mattin prime;
Steady of heart, and ſtout of hand,
As ever drove prey from Cumberland;
Five times outlawed had he been,
By England's king, and Scotland's queen." P. 23.

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The foregoing circumſtance of double outlawry happened frequently to the borderers. We find it afterwards told of "John Grahme, ſecond ſon of *Malice*, Earl of Monteith, commonly ſurnamed *John with the Bright Sword.*"—Upon ſome diſpleaſure riſen againſt him at court, it is related, he "retired with many of his clan and kindred into the Engliſh borders, in the reign of King Henry the Fourth, where they ſeated themſelves; and many of their poſterity have continued there ever ſince. Mr. Sandford, ſpeaking of them ſays, (which, indeed, was applicable to moſt of the borderers on both ſides), "They were all ſtark moſs-troopers, and arrant thieves; both to England and Scotland outlawed; yet ſometimes connived at, becauſe they gave intelligence forth of Scotland, and would riſe 400 horſe at any time, upon a raid (incurſion) of the Engliſh into Scotland." Note, p. 305. Among the poetical paſſages we may number this, which opens the ſecond canto; on the ſubject of Melroſe Abbey.

"If thou would'ſt view fair Melroſe aright
Go viſit it by the pale moon-light;
For the gay beams of lightſome day
Gild, but to flout, the ruins grey.
When the broken arches are black in night,
And each ſhafted oriel glimmers white:
When the cold light's uncertain ſhower
Streams on the ruin'd central tower;
When buttreſs and buttreſs, alternately,
Seem framed of ebon and ivory;
When ſilver edges the imagery,
And the ſcrolls that teach thee to live and die;
When diſtant Tweed is heard to rave,
And the owlet to hoot o'er the dead man's grave;
Then go—but go alone the while—
Then view St. David's ruined pile;
And, home returning, ſadly ſwear,
Was never ſcene ſo ſad and fair."

The deſcription of the alarm given to the country, by the lighting of the beacons, is highly characteriſtic, and at the ſame time poetical. This forms the concluſion of the third canto. The ſame deſcriptive character pervades the chief part of the fourth canto. But we riſe to very elegant poetry at the opening of the fifth.

"Call it not vain—they do not err
Who ſay, that when the poet dies
Mute Nature mourns her worſhipper,
And celebrates his obſequies.

Who ſay tall cliff and cavern lone
For the departed bard make moan
That mountains weep in cryſtal rill,
That flowers in tear of balm diſtill;
Through his loved groves that breezes ſigh,
And oaks, in deeper groan, reply;
And rivers teach their ruſhing wave
To murmur dirges round his grave." P. 127.

The ſolution of this poetical dream into natural cauſes, in the enſuing ſtanza rather wants clearneſs. After the death of Muſgrave in the ſingle combat, the idea of the dead march, ſtruck by the Minſtrel on his harp, is conceived and expreſſed in the richeſt ſtyle of poetry.

"The harp's wild notes, though huſhed the ſong,
The mimic march of death prolong;
Now ſeems it far, and now a-near,
Now meets, and now eludes the ear;
Now ſeems ſome mountain's ſide to ſweep,
Now faintly dies in valley deep;
Seems now as if the Minſtrel's wail,
Now the ſad requiem loads the gale;
Laſt, o'er the warrior's cloſing grave,
Rung the full choir in choral ſtave." P. 155.

But the flight the moſt delightful to our feelings, in all this pleaſing poem, is the opening of the ſixth canto, where the Minſtrel ſings of patriotiſm.

I.

"Breathes there the man, with ſoul ſo dead,
Who never to himſelf hath ſaid,
This is my own, my native land!
Whoſe heart has ne'er within him burned,
As home his footſteps he hath turned,
From wandering on a foreign ſtrand!
If ſuch there breathe, go, mark him well;
For him no Minſtrel raptures ſwell;
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundleſs his wealth as wiſh can claim;
Deſpite thoſe titles, power, and pelf
The wretch, concentered all in ſelf,
Living ſhall forfeit fair renown,
And, doubly dying, ſhall go down
To the vile duſt from whence he ſprung,
Unwept, unhonour'd, and unſung.

II.

O Caledonia! ſtern and wild,
Meet nurſe for a poetic child!

Land

Land of brown-heath and ſhaggy wood,
Land of the mountain and the flood,
Land of my Sires! what mortal hand
Can e'er untie the filial band,
That knits me to thy rugged ſtrand." P. 161.

Whether the Minſtrel be ſuppoſed to utter theſe ſentiments, or Mr. Scott himſelf, they are highly appropriate, highly honourable, and in no ſmall degree poetical. We cannot allow ourſelves to expatiate further on this poem, from which we have received ſo much pleaſure. The fanciful machinery of the wizard's tomb, and the goblin page, deſerve, perhaps, particular notice; but we ſhall only allow ourſelves to ſay, that in our opinion they are ſtrictly in uniſon with this ſpecies of lay, and productive both of poetical ſcenes, and of ſomething happily bordering on comic effect. The authority given in the notes for the fiction of the goblin is whimſically appoſite, and abundantly ſufficient to juſtify the poet. The concluſion of the lay is fine, but perhaps rather too ſolemn for the reſt of the lay; it is, however, highly poetical, and grand even to ſublimity. As to the old Minſtrel, having made ſo much acquaintance with him, we rejoice to find him comfortably ſettled under the protection of the liberal dutcheſs.

—— "Cloſe beneath proud Newark's tower
Aroſe the Minſtrel's lowly bower;
A ſimple hut, but there was ſeen
The little garden hedg'd with green,
The cheerful hearth, and lattice clean.
There ſhelter'd wanderers, by the blaze,
Oft heard the tale of other days;
For much he loved to ope his door,
And give the aid he begged before,
So paſſed the winter's day—but ſtill,
When ſummer ſmiled on ſweet Bowhill,
And July's eve with balmy breath
Waved the blue-bells on Newark heath;
When throſtles ſung on Harehead-ſhaw;
And grain waved green on Carterhaugh;
And flouriſhed, broad, Blackandro's oak,
The aged Harper's ſoul awoke!
Then would he ſing achievements high,
And circumſtance of chivalry,
Till the rapt traveller would ſtay
Forgetful of the cloſing day;
And noble youths, the ſtrain to hear,
Forſook the hunting of the deer:

And Yarrow, as he roll'd along,
Bore burden to the Minſtrel's ſong *.

Among imitations of ancient poetry, the lay of the laſt Minſtrel muſt always be diſtinguiſhed, from the judgment with which every beauty of the model is preſerved and improved, and every diſguſting fault avoided. The notes to this poem are often inſtructive, but with a good deal of repetition of the matter of the notes and introduction to the Minſtrelſy. We object not, however, materially to any thing but the ſize and price of the book, which muſt exclude from the enjoyment of it great numbers who would read it with much delight. Many ſubſequent editions will, we truſt, make amends for this fault, and put it into the hands of every, however humble, admirer of poetry, and votary of the muſes.

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ART. V. *Annals of Medicine, for the Years* 1803 *and* 1804. *Exhibiting a conciſe View of the lateſt and moſt important Diſcoveries in Medicine and Medical Philoſophy. By Andrew Duncan, Sen. and Andrew Duncan, Jun.* M. D. *Fellows of the Royal College of Phyſicians, Edinburgh.* 8vo. p. 548. Price 9s. 1804. John Murray. London.

IN the preface, Dr. Duncan informs the reader that with this volume he finiſhes his taſk, as editor of a periodical publication, which has been continued for twenty-eight years. Twenty years under the title of Medical Commentaries, and

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* The real laſt Minſtrel ſeems to have been deſcribed by Mr. Scott in the perſon of JOHN GRÆME, of Sowport in Cumberland, commonly called *the long Quaker*, from whoſe recitation many of the ſongs in this Minſtrelſy were derived. "This perſon," ſays Mr. Scott, in a note on the introduction to that work, "is perhaps the laſt of our profeſſed ballad reciters, and is now upwards of 80 years of age. He was by profeſſion an itinerant cleanſer of clocks and watches; but a ſtentorian voice and a moſt tenacious memory, qualified him eminently for remembring accurately, and reciting with energy, the border gathering ſongs, and tales of war. His memory is now much impaired by age; yet the number of verſes which he ſtill pours forth, and the animation of his tone and geſtures, form a moſt extraordinary contraſt to his extreme feebleneſs of perſon, and dotage of mind." *Minſtrelſy*, vol. i. p. ci. This real Minſtrel is ſurely an intereſting perſon.

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the remaining eight years under that of Annals. In order, however, to make the work complete, he means to publiſh an index to the whole, in two parts; one, of the names of the contributors, and of the authors whoſe works have been noticed; the other, of the ſubjects. This will be very uſeful, and will add much to the value of the work, which has always met with a favourable reception, certainly well deſerved; and the preſent volume will not detract from its merit. The preſent work will be ſucceeded, we are told, by a new one, The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal. As that work will be conducted, the doctor adds, by younger perſons, who will have more leiſure to attend to its execution, it may be expected to proceed regularly, and he promiſes his occaſional aſſiſtance, which will doubtleſs contribute to its perfection.

The volume is divided, as uſual, into three parts; the firſt part filling 298 pages, contains analyſes of books. The ſecond, which is extended to p. 437, medical obſervations; and the third, medical news. From the ſecond and third parts we ſhall extract ſuch articles as ſeem moſt deſerving notice.

I. *Obſervations and Experiments on the Electricity of Animals, by George Kellie*, M. D.

This is a tranſlation of the author's inaugural theſis, which he read on taking his degree of Doctor in Medicine, in 1803; and as the experiments are intended as preliminary to further obſervations on the ſubject, which he purpoſes publiſhing, any remarks upon them, for the preſent, would be uſeleſs.

II. *Hiſtory of a ſingular affection of the right leg, accompanied with ſymptomatic Epilepſy, which was cured in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, by the uſe of Galvaniſm.* By Andrew Duncan, Sen. M. D.

The ſubject, a girl about twelve years of age, was attacked with fits, occurring three or four times in the day, and continuing from half an hour, to two hours at a time. The muſcles of the thorax and abdomen, and ſometimes of the throat and tongue, were convulſed during the fit. The lower extremity on the right ſide, was emaciated. Any attempt to move that limb, while the patient was awake, occaſioned a recurrence of the fit; when aſleep, the limb which

which was then relaxed and pliable, might be moved without exciting any uneaſineſs or diſturbance. The patient had been ill four or five months, had experienced benefit from the uſe of bark, zinc, and other medicines, but only temporarily. She was admitted into the Infirmary May 3, 1803. She had only three fits the next day, laſting each of them about ten minutes. After a fruitleſs trial of a few medicines, the doctor determined on uſing galvaniſm, which was begun on the 9th of May, and continued to the 15th of June, interpoſing from time to time ſuch internal medicines as were indicated. On the 17th ſhe was diſcharged the hoſpital as cured. The author is aware that no general inference can be drawn from this ſolitary caſe, but thinks the efficacy of galvaniſm was ſufficiently matured in this inſtance to render it deſerving of being publiſhed.

We cannot however help thinking, that the credit of the Profeſſor may give to this experiment more weight than it deſerves. At any rate, it could not have been wrong to have deferred the publication until the power of galvaniſm in ſpaſmodic caſes had been ſubmitted to further trials; and as ſuch caſes are by no means uncommon, it ſeems ſingular, that at the end of two years, no further opportunity for experiment ſhould have offered at the Infirmary.

III. *Three caſes of Hydrocephalus Chronicus, with ſome Remarks on that Diſeaſe.* By Alexander Monro, Jun. M. D. F. R. S. Edinburgh.

We will give the dimenſions of the largeſt of theſe heads, of which there is an engraving. The child is a boy, nine years of age. In this, as well as in all the caſes of which we have ſeen accounts, the diſeaſe ſeemed to begin before the birth of the child.

At its greateſt circumference, the head meaſures 36 inches and an half. From the root of the noſe to theſe middle ridge of the occipital, it is 25 inches. From ear to ear, acroſs the top of the head, 24 inches. The ſubjects of this diſeaſe do not often attain the age of this boy; but Van Swieten gives an account of a man, who was 30 years of age at the time when he ſaw him. His head was of an enormous ſize, his limbs not larger than a boy's of the age of ten years. Subjoined are ſome obſervations on the diſeaſe, which will not however admit of being abridged.—No remedy has been diſcovered for the complaint.

IV. *Ob-*

IV. *Obſervations on a Caſe of Diabetes Mellitus, by Dr. Duncan, Sen. with the Hiſtory of the morbid Appearances which were diſcovered on Diſſection.* By Dr. Monro, Jun.

The patient, a woman, the age not mentioned, had been afflicted with the diſeaſe ſeveral years. She had been ſeveral times in the hoſpital, where ſhe died, March 26, 1804, every kind of medicine and regimen, recommended in ſuch caſes, having been fruitleſsly employed. The Profeſſor means, in the new publication before alluded to, to give a more particular account of this caſe, with further obſervations on the diſeaſe.

V. *Letter from Dr. Robert Sproat, of Beliza, in the Bay of Honduras, dated 2d October* 1802, *to Captain Chicheſter Macdonell, reſpecting the Managua (Cabbage-tree) Bark, of South America.*

Confirming the efficacy of the cabbage-tree bark in curing or deſtroying worms in the bowels, which it does "as quickly," the writer ſays, "as the moſt celebrated vermifuges, even calomel not excepted." An account is alſo given of the bark of a tree, like the peach tree, which cures fevers with as much certainty as the Peruvian bark. Specimens of the bark, leaves, and fructification, have been ſent to Sir Joſeph Banks, and if the diſcoverer was to be encouraged, ſome bales of the bark would be ſent to Europe.

VI. *Obſervations on the Influenza, as it appeared at Briſtol in the Year* 1803. By Dr. A. Carrick. *Being Anſwers to certain Queries reſpecting that Diſeaſe, tranſmitted to him by Dr. Richard Pearſon, Phyſician.* London.

The following are ſome peculiarities obſerved by this writer.

The Influenza was not ſeen at Briſtol, until two or three weeks after its appearance in London; at Edinburgh, its appearance was a month later than in London. Thoſe perſons who were confined to their houſes, or who lived in parts of the city that were ſheltered from cold, in general, eſcaped the diſeaſe, while they who went abroad, or who lived in the higher parts, expoſed to the north and eaſt winds, were almoſt univerſally affected. This was particularly obſervable on Richmond Terrace. "On the eaſt ſide of the Terrace, not one family, and ſcarcely an individual eſcaped the complaint; while on the ſouth ſide, a great majority both of individuals, and

and families, eſcaped entirely." Few perſons died of the complaint; in a great majority of caſes, it readily yielded to moderate perſpiration; in a few, bleeding was required, and in a very ſmall number that operation was obliged to be repeated, and uſed as freely as is in true pneumonia. A meteorological table is added, giving an account of the ſtate of the atmoſphere during the months of February, March, and April.

VII. *Obſervations on the Influenza, as it appeared in the Iſle of Man, in the Spring of the Year* 1803, *by Dr. John Nelſon Scott, in a Letter to Dr. Duncan, Sen.*

The writer thinks the Influenza was introduced into the Iſland by a young man from London. He had, he ſays, the moſt inconteſtable proofs, that the diſeaſe was infectious, and gives inſtances of its being communicated, in which he could not, he intimates, be miſtaken. But as he adds, that the effect was often obſervable in a few hours, on the perſons receiving the infection, it ſeems probable he was miſtaken in that circumſtance, and that the parties had contracted the diſeaſe from other ſources. In general, the account given of the diſeaſe by this gentleman, and the method of cure recommended, correſponds with the obſervations of Dr. Carrick, and with thoſe given in the ſubſequent paper, of the progreſs of the Influenza at Edinburgh, by Dr. Duncan, excepting that it was fatal in the latter place, where about eighty have ſuppoſed to have died of it. From the progreſs of the diſeaſe, which the editor thinks was ſufficiently traced from Paris to London, from thence to Edinburgh, and from the manner in which it was communicated to the different parts of that city, as well as from what occurred in his own family, "he has no more doubt," he ſays, "of the contagious nature of Influenza, than he has of that of meaſles, chincough, or typhus fever."

## MEDICAL NEWS.

Mr. Braithwaite, Surgeon at Lancaſter, has uſed the oxygenated muriatic acid, he ſays, with ſingular ſucceſs in the cure of the ſcarlet fever, accompanied with ulcers in the throat. One dram of the acid, mixed with eight ounces of diſtilled water, is given to adults, in the ſpace of twelve hours. For children, the quantity to be proportionably diminiſhed. It ſuperſedes the neceſſity of uſing gargles, as well

well as of all other medicines, excepting ſuch as may be neceſſary to keep the body ſoluble. To deſtroy infection, and prevent its being diſſeminated, he fumigates the apartments of the ſick with the oxygenated muriatic gas.

Mr. Charles Rankine, Surgeon at Douglas, gives an account of a woman who went into a coalpit, with a child ſhe had at her breaſt, where ſhe continued nineteen days, not being able to find her way out. During this time, ſhe had no food, living entirely on water ſhe found there. Her cries being at length heard by ſome miners, they went into the mine, and led her and the child out. They are now living, and in perfect health. But as the writer depends ſolely on the narrative of the woman, and does not appear to have made the neceſſary enquiries to authenticate her ſtory, little credit can be given, we conceive, to the report.

An elegant and well written life of the late Dr. Thomas Percival follows, in which the editor pays a well deſerved tribute to the merit of the deceaſed. A new work, about to be publiſhed by Sir John Sinclair, Bart. to be entitled, The Code of Health and Longevity. From the knowledge the baronet may be ſuppoſed to have obtained, in the courſe of his ſtatiſtical enquiries, of the cauſes of the ſuperior healthfulneſs and longevity of the inhabitants of ſome diſtricts over others, much uſeful information may be expected from this publication. The volume concludes, as uſual, with liſts of graduates, and of new publications in the courſe of the two laſt years.

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ART. VI. *The Life of Sir Walter Raleigh, Knt. By Arthur Cayley, jun. Eſq.* 4to. 2 Vols. 1l. 16s. Cadell and Davies. 1805.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great and exalted character of Sir Walter Raleigh in learning, and in arms, for every quality which dignifies the hero, and adorns the man, the world has never been indulged with a detailed account of his life. When we conſider the important æra in which he lived, and the part he acted on the theatre of the world, the circumſcribed ſketches of Oldys and Birch muſt be pronounced to be far from ſatisfactory. It was once the intention of Gibbon to have diſplayed his knowledge, and exerciſed his talents in this intereſting ſubject; but he was induced to relinquiſh it, as he himſelf informs us, for a more

more extenſive theme. We are much indebted, therefore, to Mr. Cayley, who has diligently attended to the facts of Sir Walter's life, and deſcribed them in a plain, ſimple, but very intereſting narrative. Having premiſed this, little ſeems to be neceſſary on our parts, but to enable the reader to judge for himſelf, by inſerting one or two ſpecimens from the work itſelf. We ſhall take our firſt example from the earlier part of Sir Walter's life, which is leſs familiar perhaps to the generality of readers.

" Lord Bacon has preſerved the following anecdote of Sir Walter Ralegh, while he was a ſtudent at Oxford. A cowardly fellow, who was a very good archer, having been groſsly inſulted by a neighbour, complained to Ralegh, and aſked his advice ' how he ſhould repair the wrong which he had ſuffered.' Ralegh's anſwer was, ' challenge him to a match of ſhooting.'

" Wood at laſt juſtly concludes, that it is *uncertain* how long Ralegh remained at the Univerſity. It is ſtill more uncertain, that he was ever a ſtudent in the Middle Temple, which the ſame writer aſſerts, becauſe he had ſeen verſes, written by him in that Inn of Court. Sir Robert Naunton, who was Secretary of State at the time of Ralegh's death, conſigns him to the ſtudy of the law on quitting Oxford; and the greater part of Ralegh's biographers agree with Sir Robert in this point, having probably copied him. Mr. Lewis Theobald, however, in a later day, conceived it to be ſo obvious an error, that no merit could be claimed for correcting it. For, at his arraignment, Sir Walter, in a reply to the Attorney General, lays a heavy imprecation on himſelf, ' if ever he read a word of law, or ſtatutes, before he was a priſoner in the Tower.' In addition to this, Hooker informs us, that after Ralegh ' had laid a good ground to build his actions on' at the Univerſity, he went to France, which is alſo confirmed by Camden, by whoſe account, Sir Walter's age could not exceed ſeventeen, at the time of his departure to that country.

" Ralegh had the advantage of a period of unuſual political activity to exerciſe and encourage his genius at his entrance into life. The glorious reign of our illuſtrious Elizabeth, leſs diſtinguiſhed by its length, than by the vigour and ſucceſs of her government, amid almoſt unexampled difficulties at home and abroad, and by the variety of important events occurring in the courſe of it, commenced in the ſeventh year of his age. The early part of it was employed in changing the odious ſcenes of perſecution, which the reign of her predeceſſor had exhibited, and in promoting with the ſoundeſt policy, the great work of the Reformation. When, at a later period, France became involved in civil war, Elizabeth, to avert a threatened danger from the encroaching power of Spain, aided the diſtreſſed and humble ſtates of Holland. Philip, in political repriſal, raiſed ſtubborn inſurrections in Ireland;

land; and the Pope, to give the rebellion permanence and plausibility, embraced that kingdom in the circle of St. Peter.

"It were impertinent to my ſubject to dwell on the origin of the Hugonots, and their oppoſition to the Guiſards—to reconcile Queen Elizabeth's defence of another Prince's oppreſſed ſubjects, at a moment when imminent danger, from ſuch oppreſſions, threatened her own; or, to aggravate her motives againſt France, in particular, from the recent violation of covenants relative to the ſurrender of Calais. Suffice it to obſerve, that with her hands full at home, by the inſurrections of the Earl of Northumberland and Leonard Dacres, ſhe was not wanting in commiſeration and aſſiſtance to the perſecuted Proteſtants of France. Having made uſe of her influence with other Princes of the ſame perſuaſion in promoting the cauſe, ſhe accepted a pledge of jewels againſt a loan of money to the Queen of Navarre, and permitted Henry Champernon, a relative by marriage to the Earl of Montgomery, to march into France with a ſelect troop of well-equipped volunteers, one hundred in number, and all gentlemen. 'Let valour decide the conteſt' was the motto on their ſtandard. In the liſt were Philip Butſhid, Francis Barcley, and Walter Ralegh; the two firſt afterward men of note; the laſt the moſt diſtinguiſhed of them all, then a youth, and commencing his career.

"This ſelect troop of horſe arrived in the French camp in October, 1569, (the beginning of the third civil war), and was received with great diſtinction by the Queen of Navarre, and the Princes. Although the French writers, as well as our own, leave us in the dark as to its particular ſervices in France, or the time of its continuance there, we may conclude that Ralegh gained conſiderable reputation in that country. Hooker ſays, 'he ſpent good part of his youth in wars and martial ſervices there;' and another writer, who ſeems alſo to have known him, adds, ſpeaking of his education, 'it was not part, but wholly gentleman, wholly ſoldier.' From theſe circumſtances we may not only account for the chaſm, which we find about this period in all the memoirs of Sir Walter's life; but may alſo preſume, that, viewing the extenſive and inſtructive ſcene of extraordinary events, which their political theatre at this time exhibited, he was initiated by this (then) polite, warlike, and diplomatic people, in thoſe civil and military accompliſhments, which he afterward ſo conſpicuouſly diſplayed.

"Ralegh was ſtill in France after the death of Charles IX. an event which took place about five years after his arrival in that kingdom; and as this interval embraces nearly thirty battles, ſieges, treaties, and capitulations, the ſchool muſt of neceſſity have proved a fine one for the initiation of our young volunteer. In his Hiſtory of the World he has bequeathed us the following memorandum of this period. 'I remember it well, that when the Prince of Condy was ſlain after the battle of Jarnac, (which Prince, together with the Admiral Chaſtillon, had the

conduct of the Proteſtant army) the Proteſtants did greatly bewail the loſs of the ſaid Prince in reſpect of his religion, perſon, and birth; yet comforting themſelves, they thought it rather an advancement, than an hindrance to their affairs. For ſo much did the valour of the one out-reach the adviſedneſs of the other, as whatſoever the admiral intended to win by attending the advantage, the Prince adventured to loſe, by being over-confident in his own courage.' By what means Ralegh eſcaped the horrible maſſacre of Paris and the provinces, on the evening of St. Bartholomew, 1572, we are left in uncertainty. It is probable, however, that he found refuge in the Ambaſſador Walſingham's houſe, in company with Lord Wharton, young Sidney, and others.

" His return to England is ſuppoſed to have taken place in the year 1575. The following poem, by Walter Rawely, of the Middle Temple, was publiſhed the next year, prefixed to a ſatire intituled the Steele Glaſs, by George Gaſcoigne, Eſq. a writer of repute in thoſe days:

" Sweet were the ſauce would pleaſe each kind of taſte,
The life likewiſe were pure that never ſwerv'd,
For ſpiteful tongues in canker'd ſtomachs plac'd,
Deem worſt of things which beſt perchaſe deſerv'd.
But what for that? this med'cine may ſuffice
To ſcorn the reſt, and ſeek to pleaſe the wiſe.

" Tho' ſundry minds in ſundry ſort do deem,
Yet worthieſt wights yield praiſe for every pain;
But envious brains do nought, or light, eſteem,
Such ſtately ſteps as they cannot attain:
For whoſo reaps renown above the reſt
With heaps of hate ſhall ſurely be oppreſs'd.

" Wherefore, to write my cenſure of this book,
This *Glaſs of Steel* impartially doth ſhew
Abuſes all to ſuch as in it look
From prince to poor, from high eſtate to low.
As for the verſe, who liſt like trade to try
I fear me much ſhall hardly reach ſo high.

" This is the poem alluded to at page 6, and which led Wood to pronounce Ralegh a ſtudent in the Middle Temple. The manner in which the name is written (*Rawely*) would make us at leaſt heſitate about aſcribing this piece to Sir Walter; other circumſtances, however, render it probable that he was the author of it. Among theſe we may mention, Gaſcoigne's acquaintance with Lord Grey de Wilton, appearing by his dedication to this and other of his works, and Ralegh's ſervice in Ireland, as we ſhall find, under that nobleman. Gaſcoigne had led a life ſimilar

to

to that of Ralegh in foreign travels, and military ſervice; and ſubſcribed the very motto *tam Marti quam Mercurio* to his picture prefixed to the above ſatire, which is ſo well known to have been afterward aſſumed by, or appropriated to Ralegh himſelf. To theſe probabilities in favour of an acquaintance having ſubſiſted between them, we may add the internal evidence of the poem itſelf, which exhibits throughout that ſolid axiomatical turn ſo diſtinguiſhing Ralegh's muſe." P. 11.

The next ſpecimen we ſhall give demonſtrates Mr. Cayley to be qualified for ſtill higher undertakings, under the auſpices of the Muſe of Hiſtory, and we hope at no diſtant period again to ſee him called to the honourable exerciſe of his pen.

" In examining the aſperſions which have been caſt on the character of Sir Walter Ralegh, our attention is naturally attracted by a late celebrated writer, who, but too plainly diſcovers himſelf to have been a countryman of King James; and that he felt that Monarch's conduct to the Knight to have been a material blemiſh in his reign. With a juſt ſenſe of Mr. David Hume's merit on many of the ſubjects which have engaged his attention, I feel bound on the preſent occaſion, to avow my opinion, that the picture he has drawn of the reign of James I. is, to ſay the leaſt of it, *a bad likeneſs.* My concern, however, is only with that part of it which bears reference to Sir Walter Ralegh, whom I find Mr. Hume to have placed in a light peculiarly unfavourable; and as, from the popularity of his Hiſtory, the Knight's character may have ſuffered with poſterity, by his repreſentation, an enquiry into the juſtice of it may not be deemed improper in this place.

" It will be found by the foregoing pages, and the authorities which they refer to, that Mr. Hume, in his Hiſtory of Elizabeth, has not always been accurate in his incidental notices of Ralegh; a circumſtance which may eaſily have ariſen from his not being at the pains, as a general hiſtorian, of entering minutely into the life of an individual. In the firſt chapter, however, of the reign of her ſucceſſor, he is bold enough to inform us, 'it appears from Sully's Memoirs that Ralegh ſecretly offered his ſervices to the French Ambaſſador.' From which Mr. Hume preſumes, that, 'meeting with a repulſe,' Ralegh had recourſe to the Flemiſh Miniſter; yet he confeſſes, that on his trial there appeared no proof, nor any circumſtance which could juſtify the Knight's condemnation.

" Referring the reader to Sir Walter's introduction to Sully, in 1601, (noticed in Chap. VI.) I tranſcribe the following paſſage, the only one in Sully's Memoirs which could lead Mr. Hume to his concluſion. I then requeſt him to recollect Ralegh's enmity to Spain, and to decide for himſelf how far the hiſtorian was warranted in his imputation regarding France; alſo, whether

ther this paſſage affords not a ſtrong argument againſt the plot with Spain, of which the Knight was accuſed.

" I now only wanted (the Ambaſſador writes) to be as well acquainted with the Spaniſh councils, as I was with thoſe of Britain and the North. Or, in other words, I wanted only to know what were the real deſigns of that crown, what propoſitions ſhe had already made to the King of England, how they had been received; and finally, what ſteps ſhe intended to take for the accompliſhment of her deſires. For barely to underſtand that the King of Spain ſought to detach England from France, and the Low Countries, was knowing nothing, or at moſt very little. It was ſuſpected that Spain meditated ſomething of much greater importance. This might be conjectured from the information which I had already received from the canon at Canterbury; and it appeared ſo much the leſs to be neglected, becauſe Aëſens and Barneveldt both at the ſame time affirmed the certainty of it, the one at Paris, the other at London. I therefore uſed my utmoſt endeavours to come at the truth. What I was told by my Lord Cobham and Sir Walter Ralegh was conformable to this information. But what made the greateſt impreſſion upon me was, that the Earl of Northumberland, whom I had gained by the offer of a conſiderable penſion, under the name of a preſent, with great ſecrecy one night, when I was going to bed, ſent his ſecretary to acquaint me with the following particulars, &c.'

" Sir Walter's laſt voyage to Guiana, his return and death, are related by Mr. Hume at the beginning of the 48th Chapter of his Hiſtory, in a ſpirit of prejudice againſt the Knight ſufficient to fix his doom with every ſuperficial reader. In a note, however, at the end of the volume, we are informed, that 'ſome of the facts in this narrative which ſeem to condemn Ralegh, are taken from the King's declaration, which Mr. Hume concludes to be of *undoubted credit*. This aſſertion muſt aſtoniſh every reader, who reflects on the circumſtances under which that paper was written. Would it not, on the contrary, be more juſt to aſſert, that Mr. Hume's uſe of it invalidates the whole of his narrative?

" Yet the hiſtorian ſtops not here, but proceeds to inform us in the ſame note, that the moſt material facts in his narrative 'are confirmed either by the nature and reaſon of the thing, or by Sir Walter's own apology, and his letters.' This he is at much pains to prove by ſeventeen arguments, which, as the facts are ſaid to be thus confirmed, I have, for the ſatisfaction of ſuch readers as may feel curioſity on the ſubject, examined at length in the Appendix, and have there, I hope, ſufficiently proved, that they are the offſpring of prejudice, ſuperficial information on the ſubject, or wilful miſrepreſentation of it.

" It is more difficult to appreciate with juſtice the character of Sir Walter Ralegh, than to decry it upon a view thus prejudiced and confined. For, alas! no ſooner do we attempt a more *inti-*

*mate*

*mate* enquiry into his life and actions, than here, as on many other occaſions, we are aſtoniſhed at the barrenneſs of the ſubject ſo important in biography, the detail of private life; and are ſpeedily compelled to confeſs, that, however intereſting his public tranſactions, the character under our contemplation, has been handed down to us in conſiderable ambiguity.

"Sir Walter Ralegh (ſays Naunton) was one that, it ſeems, fortune had picked out on purpoſe of whom to make an example and to uſe as her tennis-ball, thereby to ſhew what ſhe could do; for ſhe toſſed him up of nothing, and to-and-fro to greatneſs, and from thence down to little more than to that wherein ſhe found him, a bare gentleman." Soldier, ſeaman, ſtateſman, ſcholar, poet, and philoſopher, we may challenge a ſimilar inſtance in modern ages of that union of characters, more frequent among the ancients, which diſtinguiſhed Sir Walter Ralegh; a union on the excellence of which much might be written, were we not ſilenced by the reflexion, that the correſponding union of talent and opportunity can rarely occur. Maſter of every accompliſhment requiſite to defend a ſtate in war as well as to adorn it in peace, a warlike reign was ſafety to him, a peaceful one deſtruction. He affords a memorable example that a martial ſpirit, under an active and adventurous Prince, ſhall find honour and emulation; but if the Prince be of a contrary character, his unfaſhionable virtue, unleſs it can mould itſelf to occaſions, ſhall be criminal, and his courage of leſs ſecurity than cowardice.

"Amid the various intereſts ariſing by various favourites in the long reign of Elizabeth, no man enjoys the credit of being leſs immerſed by the ſmiles of the court in the luxuries of it; while no one converted its frowns to greater utility, by being animated by them to enterprize the moſt honourable.

"Though he gained much at the court, (ſays Naunton) he took it not out of the exchequer, or merely out of the Queen's purſe, but by his wit and by the help of the prerogative. For the Queen was never profuſe in delivering out of her treaſure, but paid moſt and many of her ſervants part in money, and the reſt with grace; which, as the caſe ſtood, was then taken for good payment." That he could never condeſcend to court the people by the uſual arts, is noticed by Lord Burleigh, in a breath with Eſſex's affection of popularity, among his precepts to his ſon Cecil. "Seek not (he writes) to be Eſſex, ſhun to be Ralegh."

"In addition to the inſtances already noticed in the caſes of Mr. Udall and Sir Richard Greenville of the Knight's zeal in the cauſe of friendſhip, we may preſume many remain unrecorded. Having told Queen Elizabeth he had a favour to beg of her, 'when, Sir Walter,' ſaid her Majeſty, 'will you ceaſe to be a beggar?' 'When your gracious Majeſty ceaſes to be a benefactor,' replied the gallant Knight."

From the various entertaining anecdotes which are interſperſed, as well as from the various ſpecimens of beautiful poetry illuſtrative of the main ſubject, we could eaſily have produced a long and entertaining article, for which moſt of our readers would have thanked us. But enough has been given to ſatisfy all, that the author has executed his taſk with ability, and to convince alſo moſt who collect books of Hiſtory that the preſent publication merits a place in every ſuch collection.

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ART. VII. *Obſervations on the Climate of Ireland, and Reſearches concerning its Nature from very early periods to the preſent Time. With Thoughts on ſome Branches of Rural Economy, particularly recommended in an Addreſs to the Inhabitants and Friends of this Country. To which are prefixed Preliminary Conſiderations on the Structure and Functions of Plants.—On the Analogy between the Vegetable and Animal Syſtems.—On the general ſtate of Woods and Plantations in Ireland, in ancient and modern times.—On peculiar circumſtances denoting the various conditions of her Linen Manufacture throughout a ſeries of ages.—And on the Utility of the co-operation of Art and Science in every Work wherein their joint Labours are required.* By W. Patterſon, M. D. F. R. S. A. &c. Octavo. pp. 326. Gilbert and Hodges, Dublin; Murray, London. 1804.

DR. P. is undoubtedly deſerving of commendation, for the pains he has taken in his endeavours to promote the welfare of his country, and the condition of its inhabitants. We have peruſed with pleaſure the publication, of which we are now going to give an account, and we heſitate not to recommend it to the inquiſitive world, and eſpecially to the Iriſh gentry, whoſe intereſt and whoſe duty is to co-operate with Dr. Patterſon's views, in promoting the intereſt, the cultivation, and the happineſs of their country.

This work conſiſts of two parts; namely, the *preliminary conſiderations*, which occupy 113 pages, and the *obſervations*, &c. which form the reſt of the work. The preliminary conſiderations are divided into ſix ſections. The obſervations on the climate, &c. conſiſt of five chapters, each of which is ſubdivided into ſections.

The firſt ſection of the firſt diviſion is a ſhort diſcourſe on the uſefulneſs of the ſtudy of meteorology. In the ſecond ſection,

ſection, which is pretty extenſive, Dr. P. gives an elegant compendium, or general idea, of whatever belongs to the vegetable kingdom. He deſcribes the general organization of plants, which he principally obtains from Mirbel's work on that ſubject, and at the ſame time laments the very limited ſtate of our knowledge relative to it. He briefly explains the foundation of the Linnæan ſyſtem, and deſcribes the different parts of the vegetable body, eſpecially thoſe which belong to the propagation of the ſpecies, in the courſe of which he ſometimes compares vegetables to animals, in a manner which is ſomewhat poetical: thus, ſpeaking of the different modes of vegetable propagation, he ſays,

"The ſeeds of plants are thus a ſexual progeny, claiming both a father and mother, whilſt the buds are a linear progeny, produced and nouriſhed by a father alone, to whom they adhere, not falling off like the ſeeds. For in this moſt ſimple kind of vegetable reproduction, not only by buds, bulbs and wires, which are their viviparous generation, the caudex of the leaf is the part of the bud, or bulb, or wire, which riſes into its boſom. This paternal race exactly reſembles its parents, when it has arrived at its maturity; whereas the ſeminal race, ſince it derives its form partly from the mother, and partly from the father, is liable to perpetual variation; both which diſpoſitions are employed by ſkilful gardeners to great advantage." P. 14.

In the ſequel, Dr. P. briefly examines the ideas of Van Marum, Hildebrand, Darwin, Peſchier, &c. concerning the irritability of plants; after which he deſcribes the various branches of vegetable economy, or of the phyſiology of plants, together with the actions of gaſes, of light, of heat, of electricity, &c. upon vegetables, ſuch as have been inveſtigated by modern philoſophers. The laſt part of the ſection treats of the principal diſeaſes of plants.

The third ſection commences with the following paragraph.

"Reflecting on the properties of the ſeveral ſubſtances which compoſe, or have a conſiderable agency in the atmoſphere, that great and magnificent *apparatus* in the immenſe *laboratory* of nature, we muſt own that it is a ſcene of wonders, and be convinced that it is largely inſtrumental in carrying on the moſt important purpoſes of terreſtrial creation. By its operations are produced the terrible, as well as the cheering phenomena of the natural world. Yet the moſt formidable phenomenon muſt have its uſe in the vaſt mechaniſm of this ſyſtem, to preſerve the balance in the ſeveral powers, and to co-operate with that of the mildeſt deſ-

cription in ſuſtaining the grand and vivifying agency of the *whole*." P. 51.

He then ſucceſſively ſhows the great dependence of animal and vegetable life on the various conſtitution of the atmoſphere, the advantages and diſadvantages ariſing from heat, cold, windy ſeaſons, in agriculture, manufactures, animal and vegetable economy, &c. He alſo earneſtly recommends the ſtudy of meteorology, and notices the plans propoſed for making regular obſervations in that branch of natural philoſophy.

In the fourth ſection, this author conſiders more immediately the modes of improving the economical ſtate of Ireland, by ſhowing that it is at once beneficial and practicable to diminiſh the quantity of imports for manufacture and home conſumption, by introducing or extending the culture of various articles, which they are at preſent content to derive from abroad. He then treats of the mode of making proper plantations of trees in different parts of the kingdom, and ſhews the fertility of the ſoil for this purpoſe, by mentioning the great quantities of timber which Ireland has furniſhed in former times.

The fifth ſection mentions whence Ireland is ſaid to have been firſt peopled, which was the firſt tribe of cloth manufacturers, the viciſſitudes of the linen manufactures at different periods, the introduction of the art of dying, the demands of various articles of dreſs for the inhabitants of Ireland, and other ſuch particulars.

In the ſixth ſection, Dr. P. briefly treats of the neceſſary diviſion of labour, and ſhows how the literary men and the artiſts are connected with, and ought to aſſiſt, each other; for the labours, he obſerves, of the mechanic, and of the philoſopher, like thoſe of the hand and head, ought to unite in order to conduct a work of public importance to its point of greateſt utility.

The title of the firſt chapter of the Obſervations, &c. is *obſervations on the weather, in the year* 1801. This chapter is ſubdivided into three ſections.

In thoſe ſections Dr. P. deſcribes the ſituation of the city of Derry, where the meteorological obſervations were made, gives ſummary tables of the obſervations made with the barometer, thermometer, hygrometer, and raingage; alſo ſynoptical views of common phenomena, ſuch as the direction of the wind, the rain, hail, ſnow, froſt, ſtorms, and aurora borealis; after which he gives ſhort accounts of the quality of the weather during each month, and laſtly relates the progreſs of vegetation in the courſe of the whole year.

The

The contents of the ſecond chapter are the ſame as thoſe of the firſt, but for the following year, viz. 1802. It contains likewiſe a fourth ſection of remarks on the origin and nature of winds.

Chap. III. Sect. I. *On the climate of Ireland*, commences with the following paragraphs.

"That the climate of Ireland has ſuffered a conſiderable change, almoſt within the memory of the preſent generation, is not only a popular opinion, but is a doctrine held by intelligent and philoſophical obſervers. We are told, that the winters in this iſland, have laid aſide their ancient horrors, and frequently aſſume the mildneſs and vegetative powers of ſpring; while ſummer is repreſented as leſs favourable than formerly, leſs genial in promoting vegetation, and leſs vigorous in advancing to maturity the fruits of the earth.

"In ſupport of theſe ſentiments it is alledged, that our prevailing winds, which blow from the weſtward, have, of late years, ſwept with uncommon violence over the ſurface of our iſland; fruſtrating the uſual effects of their genial properties, by the overbearing fury of their courſe. The evidences which are brought to prove this diſpoſition of the winds with us, are three phenomena, ſtated as principally occurring in the province of Ulſter, namely, the *trees* of the country, the *ſands* of the ſea-coaſt, and the *tides* of the ocean*. P. 155.

In order to examine the influence of thoſe cauſes, this author in the firſt place endeavours to trace the ſtate of the climate of Ireland from the earlieſt periods, by collecting whatever he has been able to find concerning it in the works of old writers, commencing with Diodorus Siculus; he then collects and examines the particulars which relate to the above-mentioned cauſes, in the courſe of the ſix ſections into which this chapter is divided, and at the end of thoſe ſections there is an Addreſs to the Inhabitants of Ireland, wherein Dr. P. recommends, in a very impreſſive manner, the planting of trees on the iſland, which was once covered with wood. He ſhows the advantages which muſt naturally ariſe from it, and recommends the offer of premiums, and other encouragements, for the attainment of that object.

The fourth chapter treats of the planting of trees, in all its branches. And the fifth, which is the laſt of the work, treats of the ſtructure, utility, cultivation, and diſeaſe of the flax plant.

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* Hamilton, Tranſact. R. I. A. Vol. VI. Science, page 27. A Memoir on the Climate of Ireland, read in 1794.

ART. VIII. *The Hiſtory of Chicheſter. By Alexander Hay, M. A. Vicar of Wiſborough Green, &c.* 8vo. 10s. Longman and Co. 1804.

TO thoſe perſons who are fond of gratifying their curioſity by reſearches into the antiquities of their own country, the preſent will prove a valuable acquiſition.

Mr. Hay, we are informed, has reſided above thirty years in the city, whoſe hiſtory he has now given to the world.

From the proofs adduced by Mr. Hay, it appears that Chicheſter may juſtly lay claim to an antiquity equal perhaps to any town in Great Britain, and that it contains ſeveral objects well worthy of the attention of the Antiquary: of this nature are—its Cathedral, the Croſs in the Market-place, and ſeveral antient edifices within its walls.

The author's ſtyle is plain and perſpicuous, without any attempt at that florid and impoſing mode of narration which many hiſtorical writers have fallen into.

The hiſtory of this very antient city is neceſſarily much connected with that of England in general, and the reader will therefore find a conſiderable portion of the general hiſtory of our iſland, immediately connected and interwoven with that of the city of Chicheſter.

As a ſpecimen of the ſtyle of this work we ſubjoin the following:

"About the year 45 or 46 of the preſent æra, Claudius, the Roman Emperor, ſent Aulus Plautius with a conſiderable armament into Britain to reduce the refractory inhabitants to due ſubjection.

"Plautius defeated them in ſeveral engagements, partly by the ſuperior diſcipline of the Romans, though then in its decline, but principally by means of the diviſions which prevailed among the Britons. The next year Claudius followed his General, and ſtaid in Britain not more than fifteen or ſixteen days, during which time he ſent Flavius Veſpaſian, the ſecond in command under Plautius, into the maritime part of the country to reduce the inhabitants to ſubjection.

"Veſpaſian fixed his head-quarters at the place now called Chicheſter.

"The inhabitants of the weſtern parts of Suſſex were called Regni: what the name of the city was does not clearly appear. The ſcite of the Roman camp is plainly to be traced on the Broil near the city to this day. The Roman General made Cogidubnus Governor of the Regni, and honoured him with the title of King, and friend and ally of the Roman people.

"From

"From one of the oldeſt inſcriptions in England, which the workmen in digging to lay the foundation of the council chamber dug up in 1731, it appears that a temple was built on or near that ſcite, dedicated to Neptune and Minerva, in the reign of Claudius, the Roman Emperor.

"The ſtone, with the inſcription in the Roman character of that time, was a few years ago, and I believe is at preſent, at Goodwood, in the poſſeſſion of the Duke of Richmond." P. 15.

We give the inſcription of this ſtone, as we think it may be acceptable to many of our readers.

"The inſcription is, Neptuno et Minervæ Templum, pro ſalute domus divina, ex auctoritate Cogidubni regis legati, Tiberii Claudii Auguſti in Britannia. Collegium Fabrorum, et qui in eo ſacris vel honorati ſunt, de ſuo dedicaverunt. Donante aream Pudente Pudentini Filio."

The late Sir William Burrell ſpent a conſiderable time in viewing and making drawings of the moſt curious and ancient deſigns of architecture, which are to be found in and near the cathedral of Chicheſter, and which were added to his valuable collection of the antiquities of Suſſex, but which, unfortunately for the world, he did not live to complete.

Although there are no plates to the preſent work, yet as far as the hiſtorical part is capable of gratifying the curioſity of thoſe who lament the want of Sir William Burrell's publication, the preſent may in a great meaſure ſupply the deficiency.

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ART. IX. *Memoirs of Charles Macklin, Comedian, with the Dramatic Characters, Manners, Anecdotes, &c. of the Age in which he lived: forming an Hiſtory of the Stage during almoſt the whole of the laſt Century; and a Chronological Liſt of all the Parts played by him.* 8vo. 444 pp. 8s. Aſperne: 1804.

THE principal part of this narrative, has, it ſeems, before appeared in the European Magazine, but it has ſuch an air of authenticity, is written with ſo much vivacity, and communicates ſo many intereſting anecdotes of the principal characters of the drama, that we are glad to ſee the whole collected in this form. We well remember Macklin, and have

have often been delighted with his forcible repreſentations of Shylock, as well as of other characters. Theſe memoirs appear to do him ample juſtice in his private as well as his theatrical exhibitions.

Our readers will not be ſatisfied without ſome ſpecimen of the work, which we ſelect from one of the moſt whimſical and eccentric of all the parts that Macklin acted.

" What induced him to quit the Stage in the full vigour of fame and conſtitution, was one of thoſe ſchemes which he had long previouſly indulged himſelf in, of ſuddenly making his fortune by the eſtabliſhment of a tavern and coffee-houſe in the Piazza, Covent-garden; to which he afterwards added a ſchool of oratory, upon a plan hitherto unknown in England, founded upon the Greek, Roman, French, and Italian Societies, under the title of " The Britiſh Inquiſition."

" The firſt part of this plan was opened on the 11th of March, 1754, by a public ordinary, (which was to be continued every day at four o'clock, price three ſhillings,) where every perſon was permitted to drink port, claret, or whatever liquor he ſhould chooſe. A bill of fare, we muſt confeſs, very encouraging, even in thoſe times, and which, from its cheapneſs and novelty, drew a conſiderable reſort of company for ſome time.

" As curioſity muſt not be a little excited to know ſomething of Macklin in this new light of a tavern-keeper, we have it in our power, partly, to gratify them [it], on the authority of a literary Gentleman now living, who often formed one of the ordinary during the courſe of the firſt ſeaſon; and his relation is as follows:

" Dinner being announced, by public advertiſement, to be ready at four o'clock, juſt as the clock had ſtruck that hour, a large tavern bell, which he had affixed to the top of the houſe, gave notice of its approach. This bell continued ringing for about five minutes: the dinner was then ordered to be diſhed; and in ten minutes afterwards it was ſet upon the table: after which the outer room door was ordered to be ſhut, and no other gueſt admitted.

" Macklin himſelf always brought in the firſt diſh, dreſſed in a full ſuit of clothes, &c. with a napkin ſlung acroſs his left arm. When he placed the diſh on the table, he made a low bow, and retired a few paces back towards the ſideboard, which was laid out in a very ſuperb ſtyle, and with every poſſible convenience that could be thought of. Two of his principal waiters ſtood beſide him; and one, two, or three more, as occaſion required them. He had trained up all his ſervants ſeveral months before for this attendance; and one principal rule (which he laid down as a *ſine qua non*) was, that not one ſingle word was to be ſpoken by them whilſt in the room, except when aſked a queſtion by one of

of the gueſts. The ordinary, therefore, was carried on by *ſigns* previouſly agreed upon; and Macklin, as principal waiter, had only to obſerve when any thing was wanted or called for, to communicate a *ſign*, which the waiters immediately underſtood, and complied with.

"Thus was dinner entirely ſerved up, and attended to, on the ſide of the houſe, all in dumb ſhew. When dinner was over, and the bottles and glaſſes all laid upon the table, Macklin, quitting his former ſituation, walked gravely up to the front of the table, and hoped 'that all things were found agreeable;' after which, he paſſed the bell-rope round the back of the chair of the perſon who happened to ſit at the head of the table, and making a low bow at the door, retired.

"Though all this had the ſhew of a formality ſeemingly touching too much on the freedom of ſocial meeting, it appeared to have a general good effect: the company not only ſaw it as a thing to which they had not been accuſtomed, but it gave them by degrees, from the example of taciturnity, a certain mixture of temper and moderation in their diſcourſe; and it was obſerved, that there were fewer wrangles and diſputes at this ordinary, during the time Macklin kept it, than could well be expected in places which admitted of ſo mixed an aſſembly of people.

"The company generally conſiſted of wits, authors, players, templars, and lounging-men of the town."

We are much ſurpriſed, and not a little diſappointed, as much is ſaid of Macklin's cotemporaries, that theſe memoirs contain no account or anecdotes of Mr. and Mrs. Yates, both of whom were eminently diſtinguiſhed in their time, and bore no unimportant parts in the hiſtory of the Theatre. A candid hiſtory of theſe perſonages we cannot but conſider as a deſideratum in our Dramatic Biography.

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ART. X. *The Hiſtory of the Anglo-Saxons, from their firſt Appearance above the Elbe to the Norman Conqueſt. By Sharon Turner, F. S. A.* 4 vols.* 8vo. 1l. 13s. 6d. Longman and Co. 1799—1805.

WHEN we reflect on the obſcurity with which all hiſtory is involved in its beginnings; the paucity and conciſeneſs of its early writers; the ſuſpicious mediums of its

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* We purpoſely delayed our account till the concluſion of this work, though not inattentive to its progreſs.

occaſional

occaſional deſcent, and the frequency with which rational evidence and ſober truth are ſacrificed by later chroniclers to vanity, fiction, or exaggeration; we cannot but expreſs our gratitude to any writer who may be careful to inveſtigate original ſources for himſelf; and by wading through the obſcure monuments of former times, at once correct, enlarge, and embelliſh the knowledge of our early hiſtory. Mr. Turner has executed this important taſk with conſiderable judgment; and though the ſources of knowledge from which he has drawn may not be always uncontaminated, we readily commend both his labour and his zeal. For the importance of his undertaking we ſhall quote his own words, when ſpeaking of the ſeizure of Britain by the Anglo-Saxons, from the deſcendants of the Roman ſettlers.

"This mighty revolution, than which hiſtory preſents to us none more complete, has made the fortunes of the Saxons during every period intereſting and inſtructive to us. Though other invaders have ſhaded the iſland with the banners of conqueſt, yet the effects of the Anglo-Saxon ſettlements have prevailed beyond every other. Our language, our government, and our laws, diſplay our Cimbric anceſtors in every part: they live not merely in our annals and traditions, but in our civil inſtitutions and perpetual diſcourſe. The parent tree is indeed greatly amplified by branches engrafted on it from other regions, and by the new ſhoots, which the accidents of time, and the improvements of ſociety, have produced; but it diſcovers yet its Saxon origin, and retains its Saxon properties, though more than thirteen centuries have rolled over, with all their tempeſts and viciſſitudes." P. 2.

On the wild and inconſiſtent fictions which have been framed in explanation of the Anglo-Saxon origin, and on the etymology of the name, this author has been perhaps too minute. But the reaſon he aſſigns why Tacitus ſeems to have omitted the Saxons in the enumeration of the German tribes, deſerves attention.

"It has been much wondered that Tacitus, who wrote a particular deſcription of Germany many years before Ptolemy, ſhould have omitted to name the Saxons. Every author has been unwilling to ſuppoſe that they came to the Elbe in the ſhort interval between theſe authors; and therefore it has been very generally imagined, that the nation to whom Tacitus gave the denomination of Foſi were the warriors who acquired afterwards ſo much celebrity under the name of Saxons.

"Before ſuch violent ſuppoſitions are admitted, it ſeems neceſſary to aſk, if Ptolemy mentions any other people in his Geography of Germany, whom Tacitus has not noticed? if he does, the omiſſion

omiſſion of Tacitus is not in the preſent caſe ſingular; if he does not, the conjecture that the Foſi were the Saxons comes to us with authority.

"Upon comparing the Cimbric Cherſoneſus of Tacitus with the delineation of the ſame place by Ptolemy, the queſtion above ſtated is decided. Ptolemy does not mention the Saxons only as being there; on the contrary, he names ſeparately ſix other nations before he comes to the Cimbri. Tacitus, after mentioning the Friſii, Chauci, and Cheruſci, ſpeaks of the Foſi, and cloſes his account of this part of Germany with the Cimbri. Tacitus has not merely neglected to name the Saxons, but alſo the Sigulones, the Sabalingii, the Cobandi, the Chali, the Phunduſii, and the Charudes. If either of theſe tribes had riſen to eminence, the one ſo ſucceſsful would have been thought the Foſi. The Saxons won the prize of renown, and their celebrity, rather than their ſituation, made ſome gentlemen deſirous to find them in Tacitus. The name of Foſi cannot be ſtrictly applied to the Saxons with more juſtice than to the others.

"But it cannot be inferred from the ſilence of Tacitus, that the Saxons were not above the Elbe in his days. In this part of his map of Germany, he does not ſeem to have intended to give that minute detail of information which Ptolemy, fortunately for our ſubject, has delivered. Tacitus directed his philoſophical eye on the German ſtates, who differed in manners as well as in name. He ſeldom preſents a mere nomenclature; he ſeems to enumerate thoſe the moſt carefully, whoſe wars, cuſtoms, fame, viciſſitudes, and power, had diſtinguiſhed them from the reſt. As the Saxons and their neighbours were not remarkable in either of theſe circumſtances, he knew them not, or he paſſed them over; but Ptolemy purſues the plan of a plain and accurate chorographer; he is ſolicitous to mark poſitions, latitudes, diſtances, and names, leaving narrations of hiſtory and manners almoſt out of his conſideration. It was therefore a part of his plan to notice the Saxons, as it was conſiſtent in Tacitus to have omitted them.

"The only inferences which can be ſafely drawn from the ſilence of the ſon in law of Agricola and the preceding geographers are, that the Saxons were then an obſcure and inconſiderable people, and had neither moleſted the nations of greater notoriety, nor incurred the enmity of the Roman government." P. 18.

Having deſcribed the native territory of the Saxons, the circumſtances which increaſed their power at an early period, their application to maritime expeditions, their league with other ſtates, their continental aggrandizement, and their general character, are all made preliminary topics of enquiry. The Hiſtory of Britain, from the death of Maximus to the arrival of the Saxons, is alſo placed in an intereſting point of view; occaſionally blended with the contemporary hiſtory of the Continent. Such are the materials by which the reader

reader is prepared for the arrival of Hengiſt and his followers: and the ſlow progreſſion of the Saxon conqueſts is traced with fidelity and care, till their final ſettlement in *eight* governments. Heptarchy has been the uſual term: but Mr. Turner, with propriety on his ſide, contends for *Octarchy*.

An extraordinary miſtake, in p. 166, we cannot paſs unnoticed. A. D. 465.

"In this year Hengiſt and his ſon Eſca fought the Britons at Wyppeds Fleot, on the ſea coaſt of Thanet, very near the ſpot of his firſt landing; twelve Britiſh chieftains fell, and the memory of one has been perpetuated in the appellation of the place."

Wipped is itſelf a *Saxon* name; and in the Saxon Chronicle we are expreſsly told it was hiepa anþegn, one of their own, not a Britiſh chieftain, whoſe memory was perpetuated.

To follow this author cloſely through the Saxon hiſtory is impoſſible. The limits of a Review will not allow of ſuch minute inveſtigation. In many inſtances, we obſerve he indulges too much in digreſſionary anecdotes, and betrays a fondneſs for, and an occaſional reliance on, the traditions and the poetry of Cambria, that but ill ſuit the ſober dignity of the hiſtorian. The ſongs of the bards may corroborate the details of hiſtory: but cannot be themſelves admitted as deciſive evidence of facts. They ſeem occaſionally to have warped his judgment, even when ſeparating the Arthur of Hiſtory from the Arthur of Tradition.

The account of the Octarchy, till the acceſſion of Egbert, is given in a connected form. The particular tranſactions of each ſtate are not, perhaps, ſo eaſily diſtinguiſhed, but the aggregate hiſtory has more correctneſs: and though Strutt's Chronicle may be ſtill referred to for the occaſional aſcertaining of a ſolitary fact, a comprehenſive view of the Octarchic Hiſtory will be beſt obtained from Mr. Turner. In his reliance upon authors of minor credit, he may have been ſometimes injudicious: but few writers have been more accurate or laborious in their reſearches.

In the two ſucceeding volumes we have leſs to complain of, in what regards the Welch traditions. They commence with the acceſſion of Ethelwolf in 836: and though the complaint may, perhaps, in ſome inſtances, be juſt that Mr. Turner's extracts of Latin paſſages from the Scandinavian Antiquaries are too numerous; yet, when it is conſidered, that Northern literature never was before conſulted by Engliſh hiſtoriographers; and that, without a knowledge of the hiſtory and remains of the nations on the Baltic, thoſe of

the Anglo-Saxons can be but imperfectly apprehended, we ſhall make little heſitation to commend his zeal. The very circumſtance that their authority never was before adduced, is a ſufficient reaſon for the introduction of the extracts.

The famous tapeſtry of Bayeux has been alſo uſed in illuſtration of the reign of Harold; and in the preceding reigns the hiſtorian appears to have gained conſiderable light from two unpubliſhed chronicles, among the Saxon manuſcripts at the Britiſh Muſeum, which contain ſeveral important paſſages not to be found in the chronicle edited by Biſhop Gibſon. With regard to Gibſon's work, we can aſſert one fact that has never yet been noticed. The text preſents the Saxon ſtyle of no particular age. The biſhop had manuſcripts of different periods laid before him; and inſtead of making one the ground-work, picked a text from all. A new edition of the Saxon chronicle, indeed, properly collated, with a text taken from ſome manuſcript of undoubted age and authenticity, is a deſideratum in Engliſh literature deſerving the attention even of the Houſe of Commons.

During the period of hiſtory occupied by this portion of the work, the tranſactions of the North appear ſo intimately and eſſentially connected with what was paſſing in this country, that the abolition of the laſt remnants of the Octarchy, and the regular eſtabliſhment of the Engliſh monarchy, cannot be detailed with proper effect, unleſs the native Danes are admitted to a ſhare of the inveſtigation. The general aſpect of the North in the eighth century was remarkable, ſays Mr. Turner, for two peculiarities, which were, above all other cauſes, fitted to produce an age of piracy. Theſe cauſes were, the numerous petty kings who ruled in its various regions, and the ſea kings, who ſwarmed upon the ocean.

"When we review theſe kings and ſub-kings of the north, we behold only a part of its political ſituation. A phenomenon of the moſt diſaſtrous nature, at the ſame time appeared in the Baltic, which has no parallel in the hiſtory of man.

"This was the prevalence of ſovereigns who poſſeſſed neither country nor ſubjects, and yet filled every region adjacent with blood and miſery. The ſea kings of the north were a race of beings whom Europe beheld with horror. Without a yard of territorial property, without any towns, or viſible nation, with no wealth but their ſhips, no force but their crews, and no hope but from their ſwords, the ſea kings ſwarmed upon the boiſterous ocean, viſited like the fiends of vengeance every diſtrict they could approach, and maintained a fearful empire on that element, whoſe impartial

impartial terrors ſeem to mock the attempt of converting it into kingdoms. Never to ſleep under a ſmoaky roof, nor to indulge in the cheerful cup over a hearth, were the boaſts of theſe watery ſovereigns, who not only flouriſhed in the plunder of the ſea and its ſhores, but who ſometimes amaſſed ſo much booty, and enliſted ſo many followers, as to be able to aſſault provinces for permanent conqueſt. Thus Haki and Hagbard were ſea kings; their reputation induced many bands of rovers to join their fortunes. They attacked the king of Upſal, whom Haki defeated and ſucceeded. Some years afterwards, the ſons of Yngvi, who had become ſea kings, and lived wholly in their war ſhips, roamed the ocean in ſearch of adventures. They encountered the king of Haley-ia and hanged him. They alſo aſſaulted Haki and overpowered him. Solvi was a ſea king, and infeſted the eaſtern regions of the Baltic with his depredations. He ſuddenly landed in Sweden in the night, ſurrounded the houſe where the king of Upſal was ſleeping, and applying firebrands reduced all who were in it to aſhes. Such was the generous warfare of theſe royal pirates.

"It was a law of cuſtom in the north, that one of the male children ſhould be ſelected to remain at home to inherit the government. The reſt were exiled to the ocean, to wield their ſceptres amid the turbulent waters. The conſent of the northern ſocieties entitled all men of royal deſcent, who aſſumed piracy as a profeſſion, to enjoy the name of kings, though they poſſeſſed no territory. Hence the ſea kings were kinſmen of the land ſovereigns; while the eldeſt ſon aſcended the parental throne, the reſt of the family haſtened like petty Neptunes to eſtabliſh their kingdoms in the waves; and if any of the fylki-kongr, or thiod-kongr were expelled their inheritance by others, they alſo ſought a continuance of their dignity upon the ocean. When the younger branches of the reigning dynaſty were about to become ſea kings, the ſhips and their requiſite equipments were always furniſhed as a patrimonial right.

"When we recollect the numerous potentates of Scandinavia, and their general fecundity, we may expect that the ocean ſwarmed with ſea kings. Such was their number, that one Daniſh ſovereign is mentioned to have deſtroyed ſeventy of the honourable but direful race. Their rank and ſucceſſes always ſecured to them abundant forces, and the miſchief they perpetrated muſt have been immenſe. Theſe ſea kings were alſo called Her-kongr." Vol. ii. p. 38.

Such were the rovers, who, at a later period extended their ravages to England.

On the life and reign of Alfred, Mr. Turner has been willingly diffuſe; and he has even introduced, as a digreſſion, that monarch's own account of the voyages of Ohthere toward the north pole, and Wulfſtan in the Baltic: the former of which was ſo ſhamefully miſrepreſented by Voltaire. The Saxon text, which is printed in the notes, is

taken from the only ancient MS. of Oroſius now to be found in any of our public libraries; and is more correct than Mr. Barrington's, from whoſe tranſlation Mr. Turner occaſionally differs.

Alfred's intellectual character, in courſe, occupies a large portion of his notice: and Mr. Turner appears to have peruſed the principal works that are attributed to him with more than ordinary care. A knowledge of northern literature has opened advantages which were unknown or or unattained by former hiſtorians.

"When Alfred began his own education, he had not only to find the ſtimulus in himſelf, and to cheriſh it in oppoſition to the prejudices and practice of his countrymen, but he had alſo to ſtruggle againſt difficulties, which would have extinguiſhed the infant deſire in a mind of leſs energy. His principal obſtacle was the want of inſtructors. "What," ſays his friend, who happily for poſterity has made us acquainted with the private feelings as well as public purſuits of this noble-minded ſovereign, "what of all his troubles and difficulties, he affirmed with frequent complaint and the deep lamentations of his heart, to have been the greateſt, was, that when he had the age, permiſſion, and ability to learn, he could find no maſters." Youth, which baſks in the beſt ſunſhine of life, and the moſt genial glow of health, under the parent wing, feels not the ſtorms and calamities which all men are born to endure, as inevitably as flame is deſtined to aſcend. This happy vacancy from the cares of exiſtence affords a delightful ſeaſon for the firſt feaſt of knowledge: if it paſſes unimproved, all future acquiſitions are but chance-play or toil. When Alfred had attained the age of maturity, and by the dignity to which he ſucceeded, had gained the means of obtaining inſtruction, he was always diſabled from profiting by the advantage. A diſeaſe, his daily and nightly tormentor, which his phyſicians could neither remedy nor explore; the duties and anxieties inſeparable from his royal ſtation; the fierce aggreſſions of the North-men, which on ſea and land demanded his preſence and exertions, ſo afflicted and conſumed his future life, that though he got a few maſters and writers, he was unable to enjoy their tuition. It is admirable to ſee, that notwithſtanding impediments, which to moſt would have been inſuperable, Alfred perſevered in his purſuit of improvement. The deſire of knowledge, that inborn inſtinct of the truly great, which no gratifications could ſaturate, no obſtacles diſcourage, never left him but with life. If Alfred ſucceeded in his mental cultivation, who ſhould deſpair? If Alfred could find leiſure for literary purſuits, who ſhall talk of buſineſs as a bar?" P. 257.

The third volume, which opens with the reign of Edward the Elder, continues the hiſtory to the Norman conqueſt. From this portion, would our limits allow it, we could very readily make copious extracts. One, however, the deſcription of the battle of Aſſandun, will ſerve as a ſpecimen of Mr. Turner's beſt ſtyle.

"When Edmund withdrew to Weſſex, Canute paſſed into Eſſex, and thence advancing, plundered Mercia without mercy. Edmund, earneſt for a deciſive effort, again aſſembled all the ſtrength of England, and purſued the Dane, who was retiring to his ſhips with his plunder. At Aſſandun, in the north part of Eſſex, the armies met. Edmund arranged his countrymen into three diviſions, and riding round every rank, he rouzed them by his impreſſive exhortations to remember their own valour and their former victories. He intreated them to protect the kingdom from Daniſh avarice, and to puniſh, by a new defeat, the enemies they had already conquered. Canute brought his troops gradually into the field. Edmund made a general and impetuous attack. His vigour and ſkill again brought victory to his arms. The ſtar of Canute was clouded, when Edric, his ſecret ally, deſerting Edmund in the very hour of ſucceſs, fled from the field with the men of Radnor, and all the battalions he commanded. The charge of Canute on the expoſed and inferior Anglo-Saxons was then deciſive. The valour of Edmund was forgotten. Flight and deſtruction overſpread the plain. A few, jealous of their glory, and anxious to give a rallying point to the reſt, fought deſperately amid ſurrounding enemies, and were all cut off but one man. In this diſmal conflict almoſt all the valued nobility of England periſhed. Ulfketyl, the noble duke, who had alone taught Svein the force of Engliſh valour, was among the victims of Edric's treachery.

"The betrayed Edmund diſdained the death of deſpair, and attempted new efforts to reſcue his afflicted country. He retired to Glouceſter; and ſuch was his activity and eloquence, that a freſh army was around him before Canute overtook him.

"It was then that the greatneſs of Edmund's ſoul appeared. He could not endure that the blood of his beſt ſubjects ſhould be ſo laviſhed for his perſonal profit, and he challenged Canute to decide their quarrel of ambition by a ſingle combat. He intimated the glory which the conqueror would gain, whoſe dignity would be the purchaſe of his own peril and merit.

"Canute accepted the propoſal. The Iſle of Olney was the place of meeting, around which the two armies aſſembled. The kings received each other's ſpears upon their ſhields. Their ſwords were brandiſhed, and the combat became cloſe. Long the weapons ſounded upon their helms and armour. Their dexterity was equal; their ſpirits emulous. At laſt the ſtrength of Canute began to fail before the impetuoſity of Edmund. He felt his powers

powers faſt ebbing, and in an interval of the combat, he exclaimed to the Anglo-Saxon, "Braveſt of youths, why ſhould our ambition covet each other's life? Let us be brothers, and ſhare the kingdom for which we contend." Edmund, with generous prudence, agreed to the new idea; the duel ceaſed, and England was divided between them. Canute was to reign in the north, and Edmund in the ſouth. The rival princes exchanged arms and garments; the money for the fleet was agreed upon, and the armies ſeparated." Vol. iii. p. 264.

The account of the Norwegian expedition to this country, immediately previous to the Conqueror's arrival, is well entitled to the reader's notice. But we ſhall cloſe our extracts with Mr. Turner's obſervations on the Conqueror's ſucceſs.

"William eſcaped unhurt. But the ſlaughter of his Normans had been great.

"His victory was ſplendid; but if Harold had not fallen, it would have contributed very little to gain the crown of England. It was the death of Harold which gave William the ſceptre. The force of England was unconquered. A ſmall portion of it only had been exerted; and if Harold had ſurvived, or any other heir at all competent to the criſis, William would have earned no more from his victory than the privilege of fighting another battle with diminiſhed ſtrength. When he landed on England, he came with all his power. The fleet of the Anglo-Saxons was afterwards ready to cut off further ſuccour, if ſuch could have been raiſed for him in Normandy; and it is probable, that if by the fall of Harold, England had not been ſuddenly left without a chief, the battle of Haſtings would have been to William but a ſcene of brilliant glory, ſpeedily followed by a melancholy cataſtrophe.

"In great revolutions much is effected by active talents; but perhaps more by that arrangement of events over which man has no controul. It was William's intention to have ſailed a month ſooner than he appeared. If his wiſhes had been fulfilled, he would have invaded Harold before the king of Norway, and would perhaps have ſhared his fate. For if the Engliſh king, with the diſadvantages of a loſs, and deſertion of his veteran troops, of new levies, of an inferior force, and an overweening preſumption, was yet able to balance the conflict with William's moſt concentrated, ſelect, and ſkilfully exerted ſtrength, until night was cloſing; if the victory was only decided by his caſual death; how different would have been the iſſue, if Harold had met him with the troops which he marched againſt the Norwegians. But the government of human deſtinies had ordained, that a new dynaſty ſhould give new manners, new connections, and new fortunes, to the Engliſh nation. Events were therefore

ſo made to follow, that all the talents of Harold, and the force of England, ſhould not avail againſt the viciſſitude intended. While Harold's fleet watched the ocean, the adverſe wind kept William in port. This fleet was diſperſed by its ſtores failing; and at the ſame time the invaſion of the king of Norway compelled Harold to leave his coaſt unguarded, and to hurry his ſoldiers to the north of the iſland. In this critical interval, while Harold was ſo occupied by land, and before his fleet had got reviſtualled, the winds became auſpicious to William, and he landed in ſafety. Immediately after this, the Saxon fleet was enabled to ſail.

"Harold had in the mean time conquered the Norwegians; but this very event which ſeemed to enſure the fate of William, became his ſafety. It inflated Harold's mind ſo as to diſguſt his own ſoldiery, and to ruſh to a deciſive conflict in contempt of his adverſary, before he was prepared to meet him. When the battle had begun, the abilities of Harold, and the bravery of his countrymen, ſeemed again likely to ruin the hopes of his great competitor. The death of Harold then terminated the conteſt, while William, who had been in as much danger as Harold, was yet not penetrated by a ſingle weapon. But though Harold had fallen, the great ſtrength of the country was untouched. It had however happened, that Harold's brothers, whoſe influence might have ſoon created a new army, periſhed before him. No heir was in the country to whom the crown could be given. There was no chief of enterprize like Harold, who was diſpoſed to ſeize the dignity, and to appeal to the country for its ſupport. William therefore, after his victory, found a vacant throne, and a country without a leader. His own claims were plauſible. The venerated ruler of their religious feelings had ſanctified them by his approbation. He had profeſſed to fight the cauſe of God. He was recommended by the merit of a brilliant victory. He was accordingly permitted to march quietly to the crown, and it was placed on his head before oppoſition could be embodied to prevent it.

"Shall we not ſay, that William's enterprize ſucceeded againſt all probability; and that chance, or rather Providence, was the agent which enthroned him?" P. 398.

On the whole, we ſtrongly recommend 'The Hiſtory of the Anglo-Saxons,' as a valuable acceſſion to Engliſh literature. Compared with the extent of the reſearch, its faults and deficiencies are by no means numerous; and, in point of ſtyle, it certainly improves conſiderably after the firſt volume, which is not free from the vice of turgidity. But we have ſeldom ſeen a work in which the powers and labour of minute inveſtigation have been exerciſed to more advantage: and the Anglo-Saxons certainly deſerved from our countrymen this ſpecies of attention.

The

The fourth volume, which is employed on the manners, government, laws, poetry, religion, literature, and language of the Anglo-Saxons, we reſerve for ſeparate conſideration.

[*To be concluded in another Number.*]

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ART. XI. *Fleetwood; or, the New Man of Feeling. By William Godwin. In three Volumes*, 12mo. 15s. Phillips. 1805.

THIS author, in his Preface, ſays, with reference to his former novels, that, in Fleetwood, he has been careful "not to repeat himſelf." He has not indeed condemned a man, upon legal evidence, for a crime of which he was not guilty; nor has he, in this domeſtic tale, introduced ſupernatural agency; but he has, on more occaſions than one, repeated his former profaneneſs, and mixed with human feelings events which, though not miraculous, are utterly incredible.

Fleetwood, who is repreſented as his own biographer, is an only child; whoſe father, on the death of his wife, retired from trade, and from London, to an eſtate which he had purchaſed in Merionethſhire. There he acquired a love of ſolitude, a romantic caſt of mind, and an impatience of contradiction. He was educated under a private tutor, whom he deſcribes as a man of little taſte, no genius, and ſuperficial erudition; but in whom, becauſe he was *no clergyman*, he was ſufficiently fortunate! After ſome adventures, the conſequence of heroic philanthropy, Fleetwood is, at the age of ſixteen, "entered, as he ſays, at the univerſity of Oxford;" where he plunges headlong into all the diſſipation and many of the vices of the place, both of which are greatly aggravated. We know as much of Oxford as Mr. Godwin does; and can ſay with confidence, that ſuch *quizzing of freſh men* as he deſcribes, never was exhibited there.

After a reſidence of four years in the univerſity, our hero proceeded to France, with an intention of making the tour of Europe; but he was detained in Paris by the ſenſual faſcination of that luxurious metropolis. He there renewed his acquaintance with a Sir Charles Gleed, whom he had firſt known at Oxford; and whom, though deſtitute of genius,

and far from handſome, he repreſents as in peculiar favour with the French ladies for qualities, which we will not ſhock the delicacy of our readers by deſcribing. Under the guidance of this man, Fleetwood commences an adulterous amour with a Marchioneſs, who is deſcribed as poſſeſſing not one quality calculated to captivate the heart of a man of *real feeling*; but the progreſs of the amour is depicted in all thoſe glaring colours which were ſo generally offenſive in the romance of *the Monk*. Being at laſt convinced of what no wiſe man could ever have doubted, that the Marchioneſs permitted many others to ſhare her favours, he broke off all connexion with her, and attached himſelf to a Counteſs, a married woman likewiſe. She too proved falſe to him, and in an agony of diſtreſs he quitted Paris, and bent his courſe to Uri, in Switzerland, to viſit M. Ruffigny, a friend of his father, whoſe "affectionate and benevolent wiſdom, he was aſſured, would contribute much to the perfecting [of] his character."

He did not remain long in the Canton of Uri. After two days, and ſome ſolemn preparation, of which the uſefulneſs is not readily perceived, M. Ruffigny informed him that his father had been two months dead; and Fleetwood, who, in the midſt of his wildeſt diſſipation, had never ceaſed to love and revere the author of his being, was overwhelmed with grief and remorſe; grief for the loſs of a parent, "the wiſeſt and beſt man whom he ever knew," and remorſe for having deviated ſo far from the paths of rectitude and honour which that parent had pointed out to him.

It was neceſſary, on many accounts, to return immediately to England; and Ruffigny, who was thoroughly acquainted with the manner in which Fleetwood had employed his time in Paris, accompanied him on his journey, to ſooth his ſorrow; to aid him by his experience in ſettling his affairs; and to prevent him from being again entangled in the labyrinths of diſſipation. During the journey, the venerable Swiſs communicated to his young friend the hiſtory of his own life; which, though it contains many things unnatural, and therefore utterly incredible, is on the whole more intereſting than the hiſtory of Fleetwood himſelf. It is, however, but an epiſode, of which our limits will not admit even an abridgement; though we cannot help obſerving, that it furniſhes a very ſingular ſpecimen of inconſiſtency in the author's moral principles. In his *Enquiry concerning political juſtice*, Godwin, as many of our readers doubtleſs recollect, endeavoured to perſuade the public,

public, that *gratitude is vice*, and that *the keeping of promiſes is not virtue*; but, in the work before us, he repreſents Ruſſigny as refuſing to compel his uncle, by whom he had been defrauded, to reſign his ill-gotten wealth, *becauſe his uncle was the brother of his father*; and inſiſting on the *ſacredneſs of a promiſe* which that villain had *extorted from him* before he was eight years of age!

The virtuous Swiſs, after ſnatching Fleetwood from the mire of ſenſuality into which he had once more plunged himſelf, returns to his native country; and the hero of the tale, having regained the diſpoſitions and habits of his earlier years, became a general miſanthrope; though he delighted in performing acts of beneficence to individuals, and hoped for the ſolace of friendſhip. He occaſionally viſited the metropolis; frequented clubs of learned men; obtained a ſeat in the houſe of commons; and viſited Paris, Vienna, and Madrid, in queſt of happineſs; but every change of ſcene or of place was made in vain. He lived to the age of forty-five, the ſlave of peeviſhneſs and diſcontent.

At laſt he became acquainted with a Scotch gentleman, of the name of Macniel, who was particularly recommended to this romantic miſanthrope by his having been the friend of Rouſſeau, and having married a woman circumſtanced nearly as Mary Wollſtonecraft was circumſtanced when Mr. Godwin thought fit to marry her. The conſequences to Mrs. Macniel were the ſame as to Mrs. Godwin*: her company was ſhunned by the virtuous part of her own ſex. She is deſcribed, however, as a woman highly accompliſhed and virtuous; as an excellent wife and mother; and as having educated her daughters ſo well, that the youngeſt, who was named MARY, captivated the heart of "the faſtidious and ſenſitive Fleetwood." Macniel, his wife, and two eldeſt daughters, quitted England with the intention of ſettling in Italy, but periſhed at ſea; and the youngeſt, who was left behind for the expreſs purpoſe of completing her conqueſt, after ſuffering the extremity of grief for the loſs of her parents and ſiſters, and being deprived of her fortune by the fraud of a Genoeſe banker, was, in an evil hour, married to Fleetwood.

For a month, which this ill-ſtarred pair employed in travelling from London to Merionethſhire, they are deſcribed as having been exquiſitely happy; but they had hardly entered

* See Britiſh Critic, vol. xii. p. 232.

their own houſe, when the happineſs of Fleetwood was baniſhed for ever. MARY naturally enough admired a charming cloſet, and requeſted it from her huſband to be the repoſitory of her flowers and drawings. The requeſt was inſtantly granted; but it had been Fleetwood's cloſet; his heart was riveted to it; and, "when the port-folios and drawings made their appearance," he retired in diſcontent and confuſion to have ſome conſultation with his ſteward! We are told, in the title page of the book, that he was a man of feeling; but it is well added, the *new* man of feeling, for the feelings of Fleetwood had no reſemblance to thoſe of Harley *.

The loſs of this cloſet rankled in his boſom; he concluded his wife ſelfiſh, becauſe he was himſelf ſelfiſhneſs perſonified; he was hurt at her propoſing to receive the viſits of their male and female neighbours; and he was rendered miſerable by her quitting a play of Fletcher's, which he was reading, to go for ſome roſe plants, which ſhe could not have obtained at another time, without laying the perſon, who was to be her guide, under ſome inconvenience! A huſband of ſuch feelings was, at the age of forty-five, prepared to become jealous, without reaſon, of a wife young, beautiful, and lively.

It muſt be confeſſed, however, that the conduct of Mary, as here depicted, was not what it ought to have been. Though blameleſs in itſelf, and ſuch as a huſband of her own age would perhaps have approved, it was not calculated to ſooth the heart of ſuch a man as ſhe *knew her huſband* to be. Yet, for the jealouſy and ſelfiſhneſs of Fleetwood, no apology can be deviſed; and for the honour of human nature, it is to hoped that few men exiſt ſuch ſlaves to caprice and ſuſpicion as he is repreſented. His jealouſy and tyranny at laſt affected the intellect of his wife, who, comparing the happineſs which ſhe had enjoyed in the houſe of her father, with the miſery which ſhe now endured, ſunk into a profound melancholy; and at the ſeaſon when ſhe was deprived of all who had been kind to her, endeavoured to plunge herſelf into the ocean, that ſhe might again be united to them.

This attempt ſeriouſly alarmed Fleetwood. He hurried with his wife to Bath, and for a while treated her with kindneſs; but her ſpirits became elevated, indeed too much

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* The name of Mackenzie's Man of Feeling, who is likewiſe a man of real benevolence and charity.

elevated,

elevated, by the ſociety and amuſements of the place, and his jealouſy and diſcontent returned.

He invited to his houſe two couſins, ſons of the ſame mother by different fathers. Gifford, the elder, was a ſeaman, and his brother, Kenrick, an enſign. The former was of a dark and gloomy complexion, the latter fair and ruddy; but the countenances of the brothers differed not ſo much from each other as the diſpoſitions of their hearts. Gifford was artful, avaricious, and unprincipled, while Kenrick was candid, generous, and heedleſs. Mrs. Fleetwood delighted in the company of the enſign, whilſt Gifford accommodated himſelf to the temper and manners of her huſband. Being the neareſt relations that Fleetwood had in the world, Gifford formed a plan for getting poſſeſſion of his couſin's eſtates, and began rendering him jealous of the intimacy which ſeemed to ſubſiſt between his wife and Kenrick. His plot was artfully laid, and ſucceeded; but the candor and frankneſs of the injured pair had almoſt defeated the machinations of their enemy, when Fleetwood quitted Bath, and retired into Berkſhire.

Kenrick had been diſpatched on buſineſs to Weſtmoreland and Merionethſhire, and was to join his regiment when that buſineſs was completed. Through his culpable imprudence in writing to Mrs. Fleetwood, in the language of love-letters which were intended for another lady, Gifford was able to blow up the embers of Fleetwood's jealouſy into ten-fold fury; and to produce ſuch evidence of the criminal connexion of Kenrick with his wife, as no huſband in ſimilar circumſtances could reſiſt. The conſequence was, that Fleetwood drove her with celerity from his houſe; quitted England himſelf with Gifford; travelled in his company from place to place in a ſtate of diſtraction; made a will in his favour, bequeathing to him the whole of his fortune; and ſent that hypocritical villain to England to ſuperintend the law proceedings which were neceſſary to obtain a divorce, and to baſtardize Mrs. Fleetwood's child. Gifford, by the ſubornation of witneſſes, ſucceeded in every thing; intercepted every letter from his couſin, which had a tendency to diſcover the truth; hurried through parliament an act for diſſolving the marriage; and returned to Paris to rejoin Fleetwood according to appointment.

Unexpectedly meeting with Kenrick in the ſtreet, he inſtantly became alarmed; but by his means, and thoſe of Mrs. Scarborough, a neighbour of Fleetwood's in Berkſhire, his wicked arts ſhould be detected, and the fruits of all his labours loſt. He therefore reſolved to "make aſſurance double

double ſure," by murdering his couſin in a wood, ſix miles diſtant from the city; but he was prevented by Kenrick, and ſome friends, at the very inſtant when he had dragged Fleetwood from his carriage, and pointed a piſtol to his head. Gifford and his accomplices were apprehended by the police; convicted, and adjudged to die by the hands of the executioner; and Fleetwood being convinced of Mary's innocence, again cohabited with her as his wife, without waiting for a repeal of the act which had diſſolved their marriage!

Such are the outlines of this novel, which are filled up in many places with great ſkill. The concluſion is indeed abſurd; and the abſurdity might have been eaſily prevented, merely by throwing ſuch obſtacles in the way of Gifford's proceedings, as ſhould have delayed the paſſing of the bill by parliament till the truth had been brought to light. The reader is diſappointed likewiſe at the *abruptneſs* of the concluſion, before the ſuborned witneſſes were convicted and puniſhed, and Mrs. Fleetwood's innocence made as public as had been her infamy; and it is impoſſible not to wiſh that Gifford, before his execution, had in a letter to Fleetwood confeſſed all his crimes. The novel ſeems to have been conſtructed, like Johnſon's Raſſelas, merely to be a vehicle of moral and prudential reflections; and the reflections which it contains are in general juſt, though frequently polluted by profane alluſions to ſubjects too ſacred to be lightly introduced into works of mere entertainment *. The language is occaſionally elegant and vigorous; but it is often ſlovenly, and ſometimes ungrammatical; whilſt the author, forgetting his own juſt reflections on the purity of Engliſh ſtyle †, introduces on every occaſion French words and phraſes which can never be aſſimilated to the idioms of our tongue. Fleetwood is certainly leſs exceptionable with reſpect to moral tendency, than either of Mr. Godwin's former novels; but it will add nothing to his fame, and very little to the ſtock "of books which enable a recluſe to form an idea of what is paſſing in the world;" it is a work which we dare not wholly recommend, nor can ſeverely cenſure.

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* See pp. 12, 38, 199, vol. ii. and 227, vol. iii.

† See his Enquiries, part 2, Eſſay 12.

ART.

ART. XII. *Scottiſh Scenery; or Sketches in Verſe, deſcriptive of Scenes chiefly in the Highlands of Scotland: accompanied with Notes and Illuſtrations; and ornamented with Engravings by W. Byrne, F. S. A. From Views painted by G. Walker, F. A. S. E. By James Cririe, D. D. Dalton, Dumfriesſhire.* 4to. 412 pp. 3l. 3s. Cadell and Davies. 1803.

IF we have a little overlooked Dr. Cririe, the Muſes at leaſt will not be angry, for a more pedeſtrian writer of verſes has not for ſome time appeared, either in North or South Britain. The Doctor is aware that many perſons have been, of late years, employed in deſcribing the ſame ſcenery; yet, as he treats the ſubject in a different ſtyle from his predeceſſors, he hopes for approbation. Unhappily, he ſeems not to have known that difference of ſtyle, without ſuperiority of execution, is no recommendation; and that of all tedious journies, there is none ſo wearifome, as that which carries us through a blank and barren region of mere verſe, devoid of poetry. His book is handſomely printed; his plates are well deſigned, and well engraved, yet the reader ſighs over the aſſemblage, and wiſhes the painter and the engraver had gone without the writer, poet we will not ſay. Take, reader, one of his views acroſs the Forth.

> " Acroſs the wave, North Berwick's conic *Law* *,
> That hill ſo oft in ancient times illum'd,
> And blazing far amid the ſhades of night;
> His diſtant coaſt Tranent and Pinkey's plains;
> *Hard by, Carberry Hill, to hiſt'ry known* †,
> Where Mary yielded all her ſoul held dear;
> To ſave ungrateful lives made quit the field,
> Bothwell of towring hopes and bold addreſs.
> The towns and villas on the winding Eſk
> Are ſeen afar. High tow'ring Arthur's ſeat
> Upon the right, with fair Edina's hills,
> Her caſtle, palace, and her deep ſunk vales;
> Her bridges, buildings high, and ſpacious ſtreets;
> Thy crowded harbour, Leith, and pleaſing beach;
> The lofty tap'ring maſt's elaſtic form,
> And ſpreading canvas white of many a ſail
> *Seen in thy roads: Inch Keith's green iſle*
> And fortreſs old; at hand Inch-Colm, now waſte
> Ere while the abode of Piety and Peace," &c. &c. P. 14.

* This means, gentle reader, not an act of legiſlation, but a hill. See the notes, p. 256.

† Not much like a verſe.

Where

Where Dr. Cririe can have lived, in the 19th century, to conſider this as poetry, it is not eaſy to gueſs. Such, in general, is the ſtyle of enumeration in which his pen proceeds. Even the pathetic does not much raiſe his ſtrain. Speaking of the eſcape of Queen Mary from Loch Leven caſtle, after many ill-ſelected circumſtances, he thus concludes:

" Yet, oh! that ſtill to Fate's decree reſign'd,
Nor led by Hope's deluſive ſmile, to change
From bad to worſe, her ſad unhappy ſtate,
She here had ſtaid, and ne'er the fate of war
Had tried, nor rival pow'r had truſted. Then,
Nor durance hard, in foreign land, had held
The Captive Queen, nor Juſtice, ſacred name!
Too oft profan'd, indignant had beheld
The lifted axe—the block,—the mangled corpſe—
Mournful remains of Majeſty laid low!
Diſtant the time,—remote the ſcene,—yet ſtill
Tender emotions fill the feeling heart,
And melt to pity every generous mind." P. 25.

Something of effect ſeems to be attempted here, but fails entirely. What is aimed at in the formation of the following line, we know not:

" A light diſpels the charm. We ſtop at Weem." P. 57.

Something like poetry, however, appears in parts: as for inſtance, the ſpirit of the ſtorm, at the beginning of the journey from Tyne-Drum to Dalmally.

" For frequent to theſe hills of miſt reſorts
Thick wrapt in murky clouds, cloſely condens'd,
And black as night, the ſpirit of the ſtorm.
'Mid darkneſs thick he ſits in awful ſtate,
Or ſtalks ſublime along the mountain tops.
One foot on Jura reſts, and one deſcends
On lofty Nevis, or on high Ben-More." P. 68.

This ſpirit is certainly a poetical perſonage; but the traveller has worn him threadbare; and continues the alluſion till the idea becomes as flat and unprofitable as a thrice-told tale. Another attempt is made in the deſcription of an emigrating family, p. 97. but alſo with imperfect effect. The writer evidently has not ſo formed his taſte, as to ſelect expreſſions and circumſtances with felicity; and hence, even when he catches a poetical thought, he ſpoils it in the execution. Occaſionally he is inattentive to his metre, as we have ſeen above, and might otherwiſe exemplify, but we are not tempted further to expatiate. Dr. C. has evidently miſtaken his talent, in writing his narrative in a poetical form. The

plates

plates he has procured, and the materials collected in his notes and illuſtrations, would infallibly have formed a ſaleable book, had he been contented to deſcribe his tour in plain and ſenſible proſe. His account of *Jacob Moore*, a Scotch landſcape painter at Rome, is to us new; there is nothing inſerted of him in the new edition of the Dictionary of Painters. He died at Rome, October 1, 1793. (ſee p. 240.) Among the plates, we more particularly notice that of "the Fall of Aharan," at p. 61. and of "Stone Byre Linn," on the Clyde, at p. 142.

A poem entitled Loch-Kettrin, ſubjoined to the Tour, appears to have been written for ſeparate publication, but is too ſimilar in ſtyle to the reſt of the volume, to demand a ſeparate examination.

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# BRITISH CATALOGUE.

## POETRY.

ART. 13. *Poems by Thomas Brown*, M. D. *In two Volumes.* 12mo. 12s. Edinburgh, printed. Sold by Longman and Co. London. 1804.

Candidates for poetical fame begin, in general, with ſmall efforts, a ſonnet, a tale, or a ſhort poem; but this author, of whoſe talents we have not heard before, comes upon us at once with two volumes; and comes with ſtrong claims to our approbation.

The imagination of Dr. Brown is ſtrong, his feeling lively, and his taſte elegant. Sometimes indeed he writes in a meaſure which ſeems to be his own, but which we cannot reduce to any rules of verſification or harmony. Yet his ear does not ſeem to be naturally deficient, ſince when he conforms to the eſtabliſhed meaſures of our language, his verſes are poliſhed and harmonious. Sometimes, but not very frequently, his judgment is ſeduced to employ the unauthorized compounds of modern affectation; but in general his ſtyle is pure; ſtrong through energy of thought, not ſtiffened by the buckram of art. His volumes have no proſaic introduction, preface or advertiſement, and very few notes. The dedication is in verſe, addreſſed to the author's mother, and gives no mean ſpecimen of his powers. We ſhall produce a ſhort poem in proof of Dr. Brown's merit, and leave it to be further traced by thoſe who ſhall have recourſe to his volumes.

"*To*

*"To a Lady who wiſhed to have the Power of writing Verſe.*

" Ah, lady! do not aſk the lyre;
Still on the laurel let it hang!
Thou only mark'ſt the ſounds of fire,
Nor feel'ſt that flame, which all admire,
The brightly-blazing pang.
Ah! wherefore ſnatch the dangerous fate!
Ah, lady! leave it on the bough!
Sweet will it breathe.—But, O! to wait
Each looſer note, what envious hate
Will lurk on every brow!
Even I, the humbleſt of the throng,
Have felt the ſorrow. Yet to me
One dear reward has ſooth'd the ſong,
—To thine that bliſs can ne'er belong—
The power of praiſing thee." Vol. i. P. 37.

The poems are not all in this lighter ſtyle: A long poem in ſtanzas, entitled the WAR-FIEND, exhibits much ſublimity of thought and expreſſion. The Sonnets on Negro Slavery have force and beauty, and many others which we could ſpecify. Thoſe to which we object for their unintelligible meaſure, will be found in Vol. i. p. 104, 105, 193. Vol. ii. p. 8, 11, 120, &c. &c. The firſt of theſe begins,

" All in ſtillneſs on her yielding arm,
Huſh'd each look of rapture—Sure, even death
Thus were dear.—But, O! a ſweeter breath
Seen, tho' ſilent, lives o'er every charm."

What peculiarity of effect the author means to produce by this ſtrange metre, if metre it can be called, we are unable to conjecture; we can, however, aſſure him, that the effect is unhappy. Perhaps, while we allow his talents to be excellent, we cannot give him better advice, than to check a little the rapidity of his pen.

ART. 14. *Seleƈt Iſlandic Poetry, tranſlated from the Originals. With Notes.* Part Firſt. 12 mo. 128 pp. 3s. 6d. Reynolds. 1804.

This is another production of Mr. Herbert, already diſtinguiſhed by his tranſlations from the German, Daniſh, and other northern languages. (See Brit. Crit. vol. xxv. p. 138.) Though his name does not appear in the title page, it is ſubjoined to the dedication, which is addreſſed to the Honourable C. Anker, of Copenhagen. The poems in this collection are, to our taſte, more curious than pleaſing; the notes are full of Iſlandic and other northern lore. Mr. H. has proved before that he is an able

able tranſlator, but we cannot feel any intereſt about the hammer of *Thor*, or his going diſguiſed, like his ſiſter *Friga*, to knock out the brains of the giant who had purloined it. In this firſt poem, the initial word ſhould be *wroth*, not *wrath*, which is invariably a ſubſtantive. The metre is of that free kind which occurs in many old ballads, and has been imitated alſo in the Lay of the Laſt Minſtrel.

Wroth waxed Thor, when his ſleep was flown,
And he found his truſty hammer gone.

Vegtam's ſong will intereſt ſome readers, as being the tranſlation of the part which introduces the deſcent of Odin, ſo finely given by Gray.

" The gods did all to council crowd,
The goddeſſes talk'd faſt and loud;
And this the theme of their debate,
If Balder's dreams were big with fate.
Heavy the hero's ſlumbers were,
Joy ſeem'd in ſleep to diſappear;
To myſtic ſhrines the giants preſs,
And aſk, if this bodes new diſtreſs.
The ſhrines have ſaid, that Uller's friend,
The loveliеſt to death muſt tend:
Frigga and Suafner grieving hear,
And gods debate with anxious fear;
They ſend, and ſue all things to ſeal
The peace with oaths for Balder's weal;
All Nature ſwore to hold from ſtrife,
Frigga took pledges for his life.
Yet did the lord of ſlaughter fear,
The ſprites of Joy muſt diſappear;
He call'd the gods, and counſel ſought,
But each propos'd a different thought.
Up roſe the King of Men with ſpeed, &c." P. 43.

Mr. H. occaſionally cenſures Bp. Percy's tranſlations of the Runic poetry; but as they were profeſſedly made through the medium of the Latin, without knowledge of the originals, they are entitled to much indulgence. After the dedication, is a poem, alſo addreſſed to Mr. Anker, which appears to be a ſpecimen of compoſition in the Daniſh language, by Mr. Herbert. A ſecond part of this publication is intended.

ART. 15. *Poems by P. L. Courtier.* Vol. II. 12mo. 7s. Rivingtons. 1805.

A former volume by this author, the principal ſubject of which was Solitude, has before been noticed by us. This is of the ſame character and deſcription, and merits the praiſe of always eaſy, and ſometimes elegant verſification. We, however, have

not

not ſeen any thing in this collection that pleaſes us better than the following ſtanzas:

When, this eventful being o'er,
Life's glittering hopes in darkneſs cloſe,
Will the loved few I leave deplore
My weary pilgrimage of woes?

Where ſtretch'd in death I coldly lie,
Will warm attachment then repair,
And deeply heave the heartfelt ſigh
For friendſhip, not forgotten there?

Will love, as twilight faintly grey
Around ſhall ſpread the tender gloom,
Lingering, with dewy eyes ſurvey
A votive Bard's untimely doom?

With ſainted virtue, not ſevere
His follies then with pity ſcan,
Think that his vows were moſt ſincere,
His errors, all the lot of man.

Oft to the Planet of the night
Will genius there ſweet homage pay;
Loſt till from fields of orient light,
Aurora leads the golden day?

O, early there may Spring diſcloſe
The blooming promiſe of the year.
Luxuriant Summer there repoſe,
And woodland minſtrels warble near.

There Autumn wreathed with foliage brown,
A penſive wanderer ſoftly tread;
And Winter, with a chaſtened frown,
Pace the ſtill manſions of the dead.

And there ſome meek memorial ſtand
To tell in ſimpleſt words expreſt,
That one who roamed this deſert land,
A weary ſtranger—is at reſt.

To all publications of this ſize and character it now ſeems indiſpenſably neceſſary to add engravings. Some ſuch embelliſhments accompany this volume; and truth bids us ſay, that they are not of inelegant execution.

ART. 16. *Ruth, a ſacred Eclogue; and Tobit, a Poem; with two ſelect moral Tales. Tranſlated from the Works, and preceded by the Life, of M. de Florian, by S. Maxey; ornamented with Engravings.* 12mo. 5s. Vernor and Hood. 1805.

The beſt part of this volume is the ſketch of the life of Florian;

of

of the verſification but little can be ſaid. The following ſpecimen will probably ſatisfy the reader:

Indeed 'twas time Tobias ſhould return,
For his long abſence made his parents mourn.
From the firſt time he left his father's houſe,
The good old man, and his diſtreſſed ſpouſe,
Counted the days the journey would require,
And when the time appointed did expire,
They uſed to go and meet him every day,
The wife conducted Tobit on the way.

The Spaniſh Courſer, and the French Pullet, are poems of ſome humour, and the tranſlator has more merit here than in his graver compoſitions. This work muſt have been publiſhed at no ſmall expence; the typography is good, and the engravings not ill executed. The author and his friends will of courſe be gratified, but we fear the public will be ungracious enough not to receive the volume, with all theſe recommendations, into general circulation.

ART. 17. *The Fig Leaf, a ſatirical and admonitory Poem. Dedicated, without Permiſſion, to the faſhionable World.* 4to. 16 pp. 1s. Vernor and Hood, &c. 1805.

How often muſt we, and all other Critics, repeat, that ſtringing meaſured lines together, with or without rhymes, is not writing poetry? The author calls this "a ſatirical and admonitory Poem." But a poem it certainly is not; and hardly can be called *ſatirical*, from the extreme feebleneſs of its ſtyle and plan. Yet ſo little is he conſcious of its demerits, that he prints ſome of his worſt lines in the title-page, as a motto; and in a private letter has entruſted us with his name: the concealment of which is, in our opinion, the greateſt boon we can ſhow him. His motto, of twenty lines, ends thus:

Methinks each buxom damſel will at laſt
Bid bold defiance to the northern blaſt;
And throwing of *all* clothing—uſeleſs gear!
In *puris naturalibus* appear.

We thus give part of his own ſpecimen, which is ſurely fair. What this author begins with vain attempts at jocularity, he ends by the moſt ſolemn and awful religious topics: thus diſgracing the ſacred name, which every good man reveres, by the moſt indecent and unneceſſary introduction. This is characteriſtic of a certain ſect of religioniſts, to which doubtleſs the author belongs. Let it not be ſuppoſed that we defend the faſhions he attempts to ſatirize; we only wiſh that the reprehenſible parts of them were well attacked by a real ſatiriſt.

ART. 18. *Ode to Time*, 1805. 8vo. 8 pp. 6d. Cawthorne. 1805.

So little can be ſaid either for or againſt this Ode, that the ſooner we diſmiſs it the better. It is followed by two Epitaphs; ſomething againſt both of which might eaſily be ſaid, but it does not ſeem to be worth while.

## DRAMATIC.

ART. 19. *The Honey Moon. A Comedy, in Five Acts, as performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, with univerſal Applauſe. By the late John Tobin, Eſq.* 8vo. 81 pp. 2s. 6d. Longman and Co. 1805.

It is impoſſible to read this Comedy without feeling a deep regret at the conſideration that it is poſthumous. A taſte ſo formed on our beſt dramatic models, and an imitation of them conceived and executed with ſo much genius, gave an earneſt of excellence which death only could diſappoint. That the Honey Moon owes much to the prior efforts of Shakſpeare cannot be denied, and requires not to be excuſed. We trace the author in the Taming of the Shrew, and in Twelfth Night; yet he has imitated like a man who was able alſo to invent, and by no means makes a ſervile copy of his original. It was, perhaps, his intention to ſhow in how different a way the deſign of taming a froward female might be conducted, and the attempt is by no means unſucceſsful. The Duke, in this Comedy, ſucceeds by the union of reaſon and tenderneſs, with firm reſolution; Petruchio chiefly by terror. The plot is ſlight, and is divided into three actions; but that from which the play is named is clearly the principal. The chief part of the dialogue is written in eaſy blank verſe; a practice which we have often wiſhed to ſee revived, as raiſing the ſtyle, and by no means lowering the humour of Comedy, as may be abundantly ſeen in this example. To ſhow how cloſely Mr. Tobin could follow his maſter, without ſervile imitation, let us take the following ſpeech reſpecting a diſguiſed lady:

"——Yet 'tis ſaid
She kept it [the ſecret] to her death; that oft as love
Would heave the ſtruggling paſſion to her lips,
Shame ſet a ſeal upon them: thus long time
She nouriſhed, in this ſtrife of love and modeſty,
An inward ſlow-conſuming martyrdom,
Till, in the ſight of him her ſoul moſt cheriſh'd,
Like flow'rs that on a river's margin fading,
Thro' lack of moiſture drop into the ſtream,—
So, ſinking in his arms, her parting breath
Reveal'd her ſtory." P. 39.

If this be not equal to "She never told her Love," it is ſtill extremely beautiful, and what only an original genius could have written. For humour, the following ſpeech of a hungry apothecary has much merit:

"*Hoſteſs.* Why, truly
You look half ſtarv'd.
*Lampedo.* Half ſtarv'd! I wiſh you'd tell me
Which half of me is fed. I ſhew more points
Than an old horſe, that has been three weeks pounded.
Yet I do all to tempt them into ſickneſs.
Have I not, in the jaws of bankruptcy,
And to the deſolation of my perſon,
Painted my ſhop, that it looks like a rainbow?—
New double-gilt my peſtle and my mortar,
That ſome, at diſtance, take it for the ſun?
And blaz'd in flaming letters o'er my door,
Each one a glorious conſtellation,
Surgeon, apothecary, accoucheur—
(For midwife is grown vulgar?)—Yet they ail not:
Phials and gallipots ſtill keep their ranks,
As if there was no cordial virtue in them.
The healing chime of pulverizing drugs
They ſhun, as 'twere a tolling bell, or death-watch.
I never give a doſe, or ſet a limb!" P. 50.

This is much in the ſpirit of Beaumont and Fletcher. We are happy to meet with any thing dramatic which we can praiſe. Had the author been living, we ſhould have given his drama a more conſpicuous place in our pages to encourage him to freſh efforts.

ART. 20. *Cuſtom's Fallacy. A Dramatic Sketch, in Three Acts. Never performed.* 8vo. 97 pp. 2s. 6d. Barker. 1805.

In a ſhort preface to this Drama, we are told, that, after a part of it had been printed, it was put into a channel for repreſentation at Drury-Lane Theatre, and had not been rejected by the managers; when "the horror of ſuſpence acting powerfully on the weak nerves" of the author, he (as we collect his meaning) withdrew it. In our opinion, he is indebted to his nerves for ſaving him from diſappointment and mortification; ſince this piece, although not ſo replete with abſurdities as many which have been applauded on the ſtage, wants that flippancy of dialogue and frequency of incidents, which (we preſume) are the cauſes of their ſucceſs. With ſome alterations, however, it might be made more readable than moſt of the Farces in five acts, which the *cuſtom* of the preſent age (in no inſtance more *fallacious*) has honoured with the name of Comedies.

## DIVINITY.

ART. 21. *A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Oxford, by John, Lord Bishop of that Diocese, at his triennial Visitation. Published at the Request of the Clergy.* 4to. 32 pp. 1s. Hanwell and Parker, Oxon; Rivingtons, London. 1805.

A wise and prudent solicitude for the welfare of Church and State, sound opinions, and language at once dignified and impressive, are the strong characteristics of this discourse.

The Bishop begins by adverting to the state of public affairs, and clerical duties, between his first Charge * and the present; and he remarks, that the revolutionary principles, though "renounced by those who first dispersed and propagated them, or kept under by the iron hand of despotism, have gone abroad through the rest of Europe; and, though they have now few open advocates, are yet seen every where in their effects." P. 5.—To the secret effects of this spirit, the Bishop of Oxford attributes the ill-advised conduct of those who call themselves evangelical teachers.

"Even those," he says, "who seek to correct the faults of the times by a stricter religion (I say this, wishing to think and speak charitably of them,) have fallen into the same error, in endeavouring to attain their end by separation rather than union. Members of a Church, the purity of whose doctrines, and rectitude of whose discipline they allow, whilst they shelter themselves under its wing so far as suits their convenience, they are in fact sapping its very foundations, and are become more dangerous enemies, than a conscientious dissenter from it. They err thus, whilst they seek for confederacy among themselves, and the exclusive name of Evangelical Ministers, so as to bring into disrepute the best and ablest ministers not of their stamp, and to draw off their congregations, venturing sometimes openly to proclaim, and hold out to the ignorant, that the true gospel is preached in their assemblies only. What then, in the name of our common Lord and Master, is the aim of the church itself, and of every serious minister of it? Or on what are these exclusive pretensions founded? We hear much among them of the name of Christ, as thrown into technical expressions; but in their interpretation of his Revelation, and in their mode of teaching, they stand more apart than others from that great Exemplar, and from the simplicity of the gospels." P. 6.

But the chief part of the Charge is employed on the subject of the Residence Bill, which the Bishop considers, as a justifiable interference of the State, with respect to ecclesiastical duties, for

* See Brit. Crit. vol. xx. p. 268.

the

the performance of which the ſame power allows emoluments, &c. He conſiders it alſo as a relief from a prior law, "in the higheſt degree oppreſſive, partial, and vexatious." He explains the neceſſity for a diſcretionary power, with reſpect to indulgence, and juſtifies the meaſure of placing that in the hands of the Biſhops. What he ſays reſpecting epiſcopal juriſdiction, in p. 20, &c. is in the higheſt degree important, and, to our apprehenſion, no leſs juſt.

"Let it not be thought," he ſays, "that in this I am contending for power for myſelf, or my brethren of the ſame order. To them it is an increaſe of anxiety, trouble, and care. They can have little inducement to claim and maintain it, but from a ſenſe of duty, and a conviction that it belongs to the office they bear in the Church of Chriſt. To the clergy I conſider it as a relief, though it may not operate always preciſely in the ſame way: ſo far as it operates at all, it reaches out indulgence to them." P. 23.

Other very material conſiderations ſucceed, which we earneſtly recommend to the conſideration of the clergy, but which we cannot with propriety abridge. The concluſion is, in our opinion, a model of epiſcopal language, firm, yet modeſt; dignified, yet liberal. We cannot forbear to cite it.

"Theſe things then, Rev. Brethren, as I have freely ſpoken, neither fearing to aſſert the authority inveſted in me, nor ſhrinking from any admonition which ſeemed neceſſary and uſeful; ſo, on the other hand, I would be underſtood to ſubmit them to your free conſideration; only requeſting, that you would weigh them well, without any private view or bias, looking to the true conſtitution of the Epiſcopal Church eſtabliſhed in theſe realms, and the nature of the office which you reſpectively hold in it; being perſuaded myſelf, that, in adhering firmly to the fundamental principles, and even ancient cuſtoms of ſuch a church, and in promoting religion by the inſtrumentality of the ſame, maintaining alſo unity amongſt ourſelves, we ſhall moſt effectually fulfil our part in the ſervice of God and our country at all times, more eſpecially in this criſis, and go through our courſe with preſent ſatisfaction, and future hope."

ART. 22. *War inconſiſtent with Chriſtianity: A Faſt Sermon. By the Rev. Richard Warner, of Bath; preached May* 25, 1804, *and February* 20, 1805. *Being the* twelfth *Year of the preſent War. Fifth Edition, with large Additions.* 8vo. 36 pp. 2s. Cruttwell, 1805.

Give a weak man a general truth, and he will quickly make both folly and miſchief out of it, for want of diſcriminating powers. This fooliſh chemiſtry is exhibited in the preſent Sermon by a double proceſs. That war is a great evil, one of the greateſt that this world knows, (though Mr. Warner cannot con-

trive to prove it without the aid of Biſhop Hall) few wiſe men have ever doubted. That it is in its general cauſes, and too common conſequences, unchriſtian, is equally true. But that, to preach up theſe truths, without limitation, at a time when we are contending for our very exiſtence as a nation, is moſt miſchievous, none but a very weak man could fail to ſee. Mr. Warner preaches them, with an avowed implication that our very ſelf-defence is unlawful. He publiſhes his *preachment*, with a direct falſehood, or equivocation, in his very title-page; where he calls this, in italics, the *Twelfth* year of the preſent war, though he knows it to be only an early period of a new war; after an interval, produced, on our part, by that very deſire of peace, which he is bound by his principles to praiſe.

Nothing can be more weak than the ſcriptural ground, which Mr. Warner takes for his unlimited doctrine. Our Saviour forbad reſiſtance againſt thoſe who came to take him, becauſe being taken, condemned, and put to death, was the very cup he had then to drink. He ſaid before Pilate, that his kingdom was not of this world, otherwiſe his ſervants would fight; and Mr. Warner would have us conclude from this, that therefore *we* ought not to fight for this kingdom of England, *which certainly is of this world*. Our Saviour ſaid, that "they who take the ſword ſhall periſh by the ſword;" that is, are expoſed to temporal death. Had he meant that it was utterly and in all caſes unlawful, could he not, and would he not have ſaid, that all who take the ſword ſhall be *condemned?*

But, in one of his prefaces, (for to this fifth edition he has ſeveral) Mr. Warner has furniſhed the full condemnation of his own diſcourſe. For he ſays, if it can be proved that war is not *neceſſarily* followed by certain evils, of a moral kind, which he enumerates, "I ſhall then," to cite his own words, "be ready to acknowledge my argument is not made out; my premiſes are unſound, my concluſions falſe, and myſelf *deſerving of ſevere reprehenſion*, for preaching to my hearers, *the crude notions of my own fancy*, inſtead of "the words of truth and ſoberneſs." Now the picture is ſo far from being ſuch as he has drawn it, that, not only the moral evils ſtated by him, do not *of neceſſity* follow from all war, but that in *a defenſive war*, particularly, (which he refuſes to diſtinguiſh) many truly Chriſtian virtues are exerciſed, which are not in peace called into action. Such as ſelf-denial, ſtrict obedience to command, neglect of preſent and perſonal intereſt, contempt of life for the ſake of duty, and devotement for the welfare of others; which, with other kindred virtues, the Volunteer in arms for his country diſplays in a degree never likely to be manifeſted by Mr. Warner, nor the whole gang of canting Peace-mongers. Mr. W., therefore, by his own admiſſion, deſerves to be ſeverely cenſured, and SEVERELY CENSURED he hereby is; and ever ſhall be by us, while he preaches and publiſhes ſuch pernicious nonſenſe.

We

We deteſt war as much as Mr. W. can do, and its general conſequences; but the generous ſelf-defence of a Chriſtian people againſt unjuſt and cruel ambition, is, we aſſert, an exerciſe of TRULY CHRISTIAN VIRTUES.

The indiſcriminate proſcription of arms has been juſtly ridiculed in various fanatics for ages paſt; and it required no ſagacity or abilities to haſh up again the ſtuff that has been ſo often confuted. Mr. Warner's chief modern abettor in this doctrine, whom yet he has not thought fit to mention, is a mad female fanatic of the Weſt (Joanna Southcote,) now in priſon, if we miſtake not, or deſerving to be ſo, for her pernicious prophecies. Let him go to her cell for a defence!

We have called Mr. Warner *a very weak man* for what he has done; and we think him ſo, for this and many other good reaſons*. We had no alternative in the preſent caſe, but to call him *a very wicked man*, which we neither wiſh to think, nor prove him. One or both he cannot fail to be.

ART. 23. *The fatal Uſe of the Sword; conſidered in a Sermon preached at St. Philip's Church, Birmingham, on Wedneſday, February* 20, 1805, *the Day appointed for a General Faſt. By the Rev. Spencer Madan, A. M.* 8vo. 26 pp. Piercy, Birmingham. 1805.

This calm, temperate, and ſenſible explanation of the truth, reſpecting the lawfulneſs of war to Chriſtians, was produced by the fanatical and miſchievous Sermon of Mr. Warner, of Bath, on the ſame text, Matt. xxvi. 52. Mr. Warner, it is very truly obſerved in a note, "admits the impropriety of framing general doctrines out of particular texts, perverted from their true meaning, and accommodated to falſe ones by diſlocation, and makes many juſt obſervations on the evils which have ariſen from that practice, and yet has moſt ſtrongly illuſtrated it by his own example, in the uſe which he has made of the above text."

Omitting the ſound and general anſwers which Mr. Madan has given to the abſurd ſophiſtry which he oppoſes, we cannot but obſerve how completely he has overthrown it, by a text taken from St. Luke's account of the ſame period. So that if the one text could be ſuppoſed abſolutely to forbid the uſe of the ſword, the other would with equal ſtrength enjoin it; an abſurd conſequence which muſt always reſult from ſuch falſe interpretations. "What," ſays Mr. Madan, "is the language of the ſame Divine Teacher, when preparing his Apoſtles for the melancholy change which would ſpeedily enſue? *Let him that hath no ſword ſell his garment, and buy one*, Luke xxii. 36. This expreſſion may be applied indeed in a metaphorical and ſpiritual ſenſe; but it alſo has a literal and temporal import. It is a warning of the

* See our account of his volume of Sermons. Brit. Crit. vol. xxv. p. 211.

moſt imminent dangers, and enjoins the diſciples to prepare againſt them by all the means in their power, as evil days were coming when they might account a weapon more neceſſary than a garment. It was intended to apprize them of the circumſtances in which they would ſtand, and to intimate what perilous times would follow. It ſurely ſhews us, in the ſtrongeſt light, the expediency, and the neceſſity of preparation againſt perſonal dangers, as well as againſt trials of a moral or religious nature. It is therefore, of itſelf, an ample refutation of thoſe who explain the words before me in a ſtrict and abſolute ſenſe, as if the taking of a ſword, in any caſe whatſoever, were an act incompatible with the profeſſion of chriſtianity." P. 19.

The great importance of oppoſing the entrance of erroneous doctrines into ſuch a town as Birmingham, is an abundant juſtification of the Rector of St. Philip's (if any were wanted) for publiſhing this diſcourſe. The leſſons of his old antagoniſt Prieſtley are probably not yet entirely forgotten, and give additional cauſe for that vigilance which he ſo laudably diſplays.

ART. 24. *A Sermon preached in the Pariſh Church of the Holy Trinity, Guildford, Surrey, before the Hon. Sir Beaumont Hotham, Knt. one of the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer; Charles Runnington, Eſq. Serjeant at Law; Judges of Aſſize; William Borradaile, Eſq. High Sheriff; and the Grand Jury, on Thurſday, the 2d Day of Auguſt*, 1804. *By the Rev. John Barwis, A. M. Rector of Niton, in the Iſle of Wight, and Chaplain to the High Sheriff.* 4to. 18 pp. 1s. Rivingtons. 1804.

This is the ſecond Aſſize Sermon publiſhed by Mr. Barwis in the ſame year. The former was noticed by us, (vol. xxv. p. 690,) in connection with another diſcourſe, by this author, on the Duties of Volunteers. The preſent is the ſuperior of the two Aſſize Sermons. The text is particularly well choſen. "Thus ſpeaketh the Lord of Hoſts, ſaying, execute true judgment, and ſhew mercy and compaſſions every man to his brother." Zechar. vii. 9. Mr. Barwis takes occaſion from it to expatiate on juſtice and mercy, the nature and connection of which he ably illuſtrates. He particularly remarks, that a ſteady and regular adminiſtration of public juſtice is the beſt cure for the irregularities of private revenge. To this cauſe he attributes chiefly the merciful character of our countrymen.

"This laſt has given riſe to a very generally prevailing opinion, that the natives of this land are *by nature leſs* cruel, leſs addicted to bloodſhed, than thoſe of any other. The remark is true, but not the cauſe aſſigned. The merit is not in the men, but in the conſtitution under which they live. If the dagger of the aſſaſſin be unknown, if the rage of the moment more rarely impel to ſanguinary vengeance here than elſewhere, it muſt be attributed

attributed to the well-founded hope, that he who has ſuffered wrong will find redreſs. This is the ſureſt preventive of barbarous ferocity of every kind, and is the parent of the moſt genuine mercy." P. 12.

There is undoubtedly truth in this remark, but not without qualification. The conſiderate and reflecting character of our countrymen is ſurely the primary cauſe of this diſtinction, and has given riſe to the very laws which aſſiſt and confirm that diſpoſition to mercy. Long before our preſent conſtitution was eſtabliſhed, the general character of the people was the ſame; and the Hiſtory of England is throughout a picture of mildneſs and humanity, ſtrongly contraſted with the bloody and wanton ferocity which every where marks the civil and religious contentions of our neighbours in France.

ART. 25. *The Plague ſtayed: a Scriptural View of Peſtilences, particularly of that dreadful Peſtilence, the Small-pox, with Conſiderations on the Cow-pock; in Two Sermons, with copious Notes and Illuſtrations. By the Rev. James Plumptre, M. A. Fellow of Clare Hall.* 8vo. 77 pp. 2s. 6d. Cambridge, printed. Rivingtons, &c. London. 1805.

There is ſomething altogether very peculiar in this publication. Two ſermons are here printed, which, in their main ſubſtance, are the ſame; except that the ſecond has a different introduction; and contains ſome general arguments in favour of inoculation, which were not thought neceſſary in the firſt. The former was preached before the Univerſity of Cambridge, the latter in a country pariſh near Cambridge. The ſame notes and illuſtrations ſerve, in a great degree, for both.

To give an exact opinion of them, is by no means eaſy. They contain much that is ſound and uſeful, reſpecting the hiſtory of the ſmall-pox, and the recommendation of the cow-pox: but much alſo, that is far beyond our comprehenſion, in other reſpects. The title pages, both general and particular, ſeem to imply, "*ſcriptural* views of the *ſmall-pox*;" and the prophecies are, by ſome means, very copiouſly introduced in connection with it: with what propriety we really cannot ſee. In a note, (p. 27.) a fanciful relation between the name of *Jenner* and the Greek verb γινομαι, with its derivatives, is ſaid to ſeem "to be one of thoſe *facts*, to which the thinking mind is fearful of allowing too much or too little moment!" As far as our minds are capable of thinking, we have not a particle of doubt, that it ſhould not be allowed the ſmalleſt moment whatever. It is a mere pun; and has no more validity for being found in Greek, than if the ſimilarity of ſound had happened to be traced in Perſic, the language of Ava, or that of New Holland. Yet the piety and good intention of the diſcourſes are admirable; and that which was addreſſed to a rural congregation, would there, doubtleſs, have a good effect.

POLITICS.

## POLITICS.

ART. 26. *Reflections on the Proceedings of the Houſe of Commons on the Nights of the 8th and 10th of April, 1805, embracing a View of the Conduct of Mr. Whitbread and the Whig Oppoſition on thoſe memorable Nights: To which is annexed, a verbatim Copy of the Act for regulating the Office of the Treaſurer of his Majeſty's Navy.* 8vo. 94 pp. Ginger. 1805.

The character which has been given of a former publication by this writer (his "Eleven Strictures on the Tenth Report *,") applies almoſt literally to the work before us. Whatever may be the merits of the cauſe which he ſupports, the hardy aſſertions, the coarſe ſarcaſms, and the profuſe invectives of this author, are by no means calculated to do it ſervice. But the cauſe itſelf is now ſubmitted to the higheſt tribunal in this kingdom, and it would be equally unfair and indecent to anticipate the judgment which it may be ſuppoſed to deſerve.

ART. 27. *A Sketch of the Political State of Europe at the beginning of February, 1805. By William Hunter, Eſq. Author of the "Vindication of the Cauſe of Great Britain," and other Political Tracts.* 8vo. 205 pp. 4s. Stockdale. 1805.

The "Vindication of the Cauſe of Great Britain," announced in the title page as the work of this author, was † favourably noticed by us ſoon after its appearance. The work before us is written in the ſame patriotic ſpirit, but not with equal judgment; for, in his zeal to embrace every topic which the preſent circumſtances ſuggeſt, the writer has fallen into needleſs repetitions, and a tedious prolixity. To thoſe readers, however, who may not be very converſant in the ſubjects here diſcuſſed, many obſervations, which to us appear trite, may be found intereſting.

The author commences his work with a ſtatement of the cauſes which led to the preſent ſituation of public affairs, and this induces him to review, at ſome length, the modern hiſtory of Europe. The French Revolution, and its conſequent enormities, he aſcribes to the writings of thoſe "Atheiſts, Freethinkers, Voluptuaries, and political Enthuſiaſts," who, about half a century ago, produced a change in the public opinion. After diſcuſſing this fertile topic, and various others connected with it, at conſiderable length; and after ſtating alſo the leading circumſtances of the late war, together with the conſequent ſituation of each of the

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* See Britiſh Critic for June 1805, p. 697.

† See Brit. Crit. vol. xxii. p. 204.

principal

principal European powers, the author points out to each the neceſſity of withſtanding the violent and unceaſing encroachments of France. He then juſtifies by arguments, which we deem concluſive, not only our renewal of the war with Bonaparte, but the ſubſequent rupture with Spain; and ſuggeſts many conſiderations reſpecting the management of our navy, the recruiting of our armies, and the general conduct of the war; ſome of which are trite, but others important, and, in our opinion, well worthy of attention. The Catholic Queſtion is alſo agitated, and the motives for at leaſt heſitating to grant, if not wholly rejecting, the claims of that body, are very fairly and clearly ſet forth. Laſtly, the author reverts to the war in which we are engaged, and ſtates the terms on which alone it can be honourably and ſafely terminated. We agree in moſt of the opinions which he has given on public affairs, and think his work, though it has undoubtedly the fault already noticed, is creditable to his underſtanding, his information, and above all to his public ſpirit and patriotiſm,

## NAVY.

ART. 28. *Navy. Facts, reſpecting the Royal Navy, and his Majeſty's Dock-Yards; ſhewing the Fallacy of the Aſſertion, that an efficient and powerful Navy may be kept up, even in Time of War, without having Recourſe to the Merchants' Yards.* 4to. 11 pp. No Publiſher's name. 1805.

The queſtion, "whether a ſufficient number of ſhips of war can be built in the King's yards ſolely, without having recourſe to thoſe of the Merchants?" though of late much agitated, was never, we believe, raiſed till the Earl of St. Vincent preſided at the Board of Admiralty. It ſeems to have been a favourite opinion with that Board, that the ſyſtem ſo long practiſed, of contracting with ſhip-builders for the building of a part of our Navy, was erroneous, and they accordingly laid it aſide. The writer before us maintains the contrary doctrine, and ſtates ſome ſtriking facts in ſupport of his opinion. The point might however, we conceive, be aſcertained, nearly to a certainty, by calculations of the average work performed in the King's yards, for a certain number of years, during war and peace, and an inquiry how far the naval eſtabliſhments might, if neceſſary, be increaſed.

ART. 29. *A Statement of the Caſe between Captain Robert Keen, of the Royal Navy, and Mr. Robert Seppings, Maſter Shipwright of his Majeſty's Yard at Chatham, reſpecting an Invention for obviating the Neceſſity of lifting Ships in the King's Docks.* 8vo. 36 pp. 1s. Johnſon. 1804.

"The diſputes of individuals," ſays this author, "are ſeldom intereſting to the public." He might have added, that this is a caſe

caſe which not the public, but his own official ſuperiors, muſt decide. We do not therefore conceive that a ſtatement of it here would be intereſting to our readers, or is neceſſary in juſtice to the author. The whole depends on a few facts; and if they are as ſtated by Mr. Seppings (eſpecially that deciſive circumſtance of *his plan having been on trial before the time when Capt. Keen alledges that he communicated his ideas on the ſubject to Mr. S.*) there can be no doubt of his having a prior claim to the merit of the invention.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

ART. 30. *Werneria; or ſhort Characters of Earths: with Notes, according to the Improvements of Klaproth, Vauquelin, and Hauy. By Terræ Filius.* 12mo. 105 pp. 4s. Baldwin. 1805.

Technical verſes are never very delightful, and *Terræ Filius* has certainly not ſucceeded in the attempt, if he made it, of giving new grace or elegance to ſuch a plan. Let us take the firſt example that occurs.

*Fluate of Lime*, &c.

" Of divers colours, and in various ſhapes,
Of cube, or maſs amorphous, fluor's found;
Tranſparent oft', of ſparry texture, hard
*And brittle, tho' not with ſteel igniting* *." P. 17.

The author ſays, " Every boy can tell how much eaſier he gets by heart his Latin grammar, in heroic verſe, than his Greek in unmeaſured proſe." True, good Sir, but to make the compariſon hold, the lines given ſhould be *verſe*, which we apprehend cannot be ſaid of the fourth of thoſe given above; nor of the firſt, fifth, and ſeventh in the following quotation.

*Carbonate of Baryt.*

" *The carbonate of baryt moſt commonly*
Is found in maſs amorphous; but ſometimes
In cryſtals of ſix ſides, with pyramids
Join'd baſe to baſe; of faint tranſparency,
*In texture compact, and with diverging*
Striæ, in luſtre moderate, milk-white,
*Or greyiſh, or with a tinge of yellow,*
By no means hard, and yielding to the knife." P. 25.

It is better ſurely to be ignorant of mineralogy, than to attempt committing to memory ſuch flimſy inharmonious ſtuff as

* Why not?
" And brittle, though with ſteel it ſtrikes no fire."
So little effort would mend theſe ſtrange lines.

this.

this. Dates are almoſt impoſſible to be accurately remembered, without a technical method, and therefore ſome ſenſible men have ſubmitted to labour through ten or a dozen ſuch lines as, Troy *abeif*, olym*pois*, Rom*put*, &c. But he who cannot remember the deſcription and characters of a mineral, without ſuch a barbarous jargon as this to aid him, is not fit to learn any thing.

## MISCELLANIES.

ART. 31. *Six more Letters to Granville Sharp, Eſq. on his Remarks upon the Uſes of the Article in the New Teſtament. By Gregory Blunt, Eſq.* 8vo. 195 pp. 5s. Johnſon. 1803.

The baſis of theſe Letters is a virulent prejudice againſt the doctrine of the Trinity, which drives the author almoſt to madneſs in his indulgence of it. He begins (that is the writer of the preface begins *) by aſſerting, that "the doctrine of the Trinity is pretty generally admitted to be in the wane, by critical ſcholars, and rational Chriſtians;" an aſſertion directly in contradiction to the fact. Critical ſcholars certainly do not deem it ſo; nor *rational Chriſtians*, unleſs by that name he means excluſively the partizans againſt it, ſuch as himſelf, whoſe opinion, in ſuch a caſe, is of no value. This decline of the doctrine being ſuppoſed, Mr. Sharp's treatiſe on the Greek article is conſidered as a deſperate remedy in a deſperate caſe. In our opinion there is no proof of a deſperate caſe ſo ſtrong, as the intemperate uſe of ridicule, in a queſtion of ſerious moment. To raiſe the laugh of fools, is to triumph among fools, and they are in many claſſes the majority. As Wilkes truſted he ſhould beat the man who threatened to take *the ſenſe* of the city, by taking *the nonſenſe* of the city; which how effectually he did, all who are old enough remember.

In the paltry pertneſs of calling himſelf *Gregory Blunt*, becauſe he attempts to anſwer *Granville Sharp*, and ſimilar efforts at buffoonery, conſiſts a great part of the merit of this writer. The quantity of duſt, with which he endeavours to cloud a plain and ſimple propoſition, is a ſtrong proof of his diſtreſs; and to follow him through all his ribaldry would be to make a book almoſt as tedious and confuſed as his own. The plain and ſimple queſtion is, whether, according to the idiom of the Greek language, as well as the practice of the ſacred writers, certain paſſages in the New Teſtament ought to be tranſlated according to Mr. Sharp's rules, or according to the modes which he conſiders as corrupt. To this point the teſtimony of Beza, a Greek

* Moſt probably the ſame perſon, though pretended to be another.

ſcholar of acknowledged learning, is far above that of the anonymous *Blunt*; and *he* ſays, "*id* CERTÈ *poſtulat Græci ſermonis uſus, quum unus tantum ſit articulus, duobus iſtis,* Θεου και Σωτηρος, &c. *communis.*" To confirm this *fact*, the Greek fathers were examined by *Mr. Wordſworth*; not as men of authority in other reſpects, but as men who might be ſuppoſed to underſtand *their own language*. To oppoſe theſe plain things, Mr. Blunt is obliged to cenſure the writers of the New Teſtament, in the maſs, "as popular, looſe, informal writers," and to ſpeak of the writings of the fathers, as "the accumulated filth of fourteen centuries," &c. though he muſt know that they cannot *honeſtly* be ſo depreciated; and that, if they could, the real queſtion is not what the ſentiments of the writers were, but whether they underſtood Greek or not, which was their native language. Mr. Sharp's remarks, and Mr. Wordſworth's illuſtrations, are too ſolid to be affected by ſuch ſophiſtry.

When theſe Letters firſt appeared, they were attributed to perſons of credit, attached, or ſuppoſed to be attached to the Socinian cauſe. But theſe nominations have one by one been withdrawn, and the letters remain at this hour more unfathered than ever, probably becauſe the bantling is perceived not to be worth owning. We have been tardy in our account of them, from real diſguſt in wading through ſuch a maſs of ribaldry; and from an occaſional doubt whether we ſhould treat of them at large, or in this general way. On full conſideration we have deemed this notice amply equal to their worth; but if to any perſon it ſhould appear otherwiſe, champions cannot be wanting *, whoſe time is more at their command, to attack the enemy on every inch of his ground, and beat him off from every one of his poſitions.

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* No one could be more able, were it worthy of his labour, than Dr. Burgeſs, the excellent and learned Biſhop of St. David's, who gives a good general view of Mr. Blunt's demerits, in a note on his primary Charge. (See Brit. Crit. xxv. 467.) He ſays, that theſe Letters "are very well calculated to miſlead the unlearned reader by abſtract queſtions, gratuitous aſſertions, and hypothetical examples; but communicate nothing on the ſcore of authority, which bears any compariſon with the unanimous conſent of the Greek fathers; and nothing at all which has any pretence to grammatical obſervation." He adds, that the author's "uſe of the Port Royal Greek Grammar, his new mode of conſtruing Greek, and his miſapplication of Engliſh phraſeology to Greek idiom are too ill-grounded, and their defects too palpable, to eſcape the notice of a ſenſible ſchool-boy." Note, p. 19.

ART.

ART. 32. *A Voyage round the World in the Years* 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, *and* 1804, *in which the Author viſited the principal Iſlands in the Pacific Ocean, and the Engliſh Settlements of Port Jackſon, and Norfolk Iſland. By John Turnbull.* 3 vols. 12mo. 13s. 6d. Philips. 1805.

Theſe volumes exhibit a more circumſtantial account of the various iſlands in the South Sea, and of Otaheite in particular, than we have elſewhere ſeen. The picture, however, cannot be very pleaſing to readers of benevolent feelings. The author repreſents theſe poor iſlanders as benefited in no reſpect by their communication with Europeans, as greatly diminiſhed in population, and as ſubject to various diſeaſes with which they were before wholly unacquainted. Capt. Cooke computed the population of Otaheite at two hundred thouſand. This author aſſerts, that it has now dwindled to five thouſand (ſurely impoſſible!); neither does it appear by this account that any conſiderable progreſs has been made by the Miſſionaries, whoſe potent exertions are nevertheleſs ſpoken of in the higheſt terms of commendation. The work is on the whole intereſting, though defaced by various inaccuracies of ſtyle and language. Many uſeful hints are alſo given to thoſe who may hereafter viſit theſe iſlands; the inhabitants of which, according to Mr. Turnbull, remain ſtill diſtinguiſhed by the vices and weakneſſes which firſt attracted the aſtoniſhment and pity of our countrymen. Their propenſity to theft is unalterable; human ſacrifices are ſtill continued, and the horrible ſociety of the Arreoys ſtill exiſts.

ART. 33. *L'Ami des Meres, ou Lettres ſur L'Education precedées du Tableau des Sentimens que la Nature inſpire à l'Homme pour ſa Mere, et du Precis des bienfaits qu'il doit à ſon Amour.* 4 Vols. 12mo. P. 16. Dulau. 1805.

Theſe volumes are introduced with an honeſt effuſion of gratitude to the Engliſh nation in general, and to Mr. Lock of Norbury Park, in particular, for the ſingular humanity and generoſity with which they diſtinguiſhed the French, who were compelled to take refuge in this country, from the barbarity of their unworthy countrymen. The work is divided into four parts, each occupying a diſtinct volume. The firſt volume diſcuſſes the ſubject which the title page above repreſents; the ſecond volume treats on "Education de la Conſcience;" the third, "Education du Cœur;" the fourth, "Education de l'eſprit." The ſtyle is eaſy and elegant, and the author's maxims unexceptionable; indeed he is entitled to the higheſt commendation for having, in oppoſition to many of his countrymen, made a love of religion, and the practice of the Chriſtian virtues, the ground-work of all the precepts he inculcates. We heartily wiſh that this publication may be ſucceſsful, and have not the leaſt ſcruple in recommending

mending it. The writer is the Abbe Carron le Jeune. Two letters, commendatory of the work, are prefixed; one from the Biſhop of Montpelier, the other from M. du Baurblanc.

ART. 34. *Light Reading at Leiſure Hours, or an Attempt to unite the proper Objects of Gaiety and Taſte in exploring the various Sources of rational Pleaſure, the fine Arts, Poetry, Sculpture, Painting, Muſic, Dancing, faſhionable Paſtime, Lives, Memoirs, Characters, Anecdotes, &c. &c. &c.* 8vo. 5s. Ridgway. 1805.

We always take up a book having a long title page with ſuſpicion, and remembering the old proverb, "that all is not gold that gliſtens." This publication profeſſing the diſcuſſion of ſo great a variety of ſubjects, any one of which would have afforded ample exerciſe for the fineſt talents, excited a double portion of diſtruſt. However, as it is not the duty of a Critic to decide at firſt ſight, we determined to travel through the volume, and are obliged to confeſs that we have not often been more agreeably ſurpriſed and detained. We met with a great number of anecdotes perfectly new to us, and adviſe ſuch of our readers as are fond of Light Reading, to make this book their companion in a poſt-chaiſe, or put it in poſſeſſion of their parlour window.

ART. 35. *Sketches relative to the Hiſtory and Theory, but more eſpecially to the Practice of Dancing, as a neceſſary Accompliſhment to the Youth of both Sexes; together with Remarks on the Defects and bad Habits they are liable to in early Life, and the beſt Means of correcting or preventing them, intended as Hints to the young Teachers of the Art of Dancing. By Francis Peacock, Aberdeen.* 8vo. 5s. Longman and Rees. 1805.

Forty years ago we ſhould have been better able to have aſcertained the merits of this work, and to have entered into the ſpirit of it, than we can be ſuppoſed to be at preſent. Alas, the ſhuffling gait, the ſtoop in the ſhoulders, and the turned-in toes, of very ancient critics are beyond the power of diſcipline. But we have read this book with ſatisfaction, and recommend it to younger practitioners in the art. It communicates ſome pleaſing anecdotes from Lucian, Athenæus, Diodorus, and others; and, among many uſeful obſervations, contains the following: "Young people, even when they are in good health, do not naturally attend to the poſture moſt proper for them to ſit in; they generally think only how they may make themſelves eaſy in that ſituation, and therefore the poſition they commonly adopt is improper. Some ſit upon one hip, this ſhortens that ſide to which they recline; others ſit with their bodies bent forwards, and this gives a roundneſs to the back (*our own caſe preciſely.*) Leaning againſt the back of a chair,

chair, particularly if the seat be broad, has the same effect; when they do this, the head naturally comes forward."

The author has had upwards of sixty years experience, and has the advantage of the tuition of "a Desnoyer, a Glover, and a Lally," and speaks withal so modestly of himself as greatly to prepossess us, unskilled as we are in his art, in his favour. Indeed, we would not unwillingly put ourselves under the tuition of this accomplished gentleman, but that we apprehend it is too late for us to learn any new step, except the *Pas Grave*.

ART. 36. *Fisher's Grammar improved; or an English Grammar, in which Fisher's Plan is preserved, and the Work made more perfect, by various Amendments; in Orthography and Prosody, from Walker, Sheridan, and others; and in Etymology and Syntax, principally from Lowth. The Third Edition, much improved. By the Rev. J. Wilson, Vicar of Biddulph, and Master of the Free Grammar School in Congleton.* 12mo. 184 pp. 2s. bound. Congleton, printed. Sael, &c. London. 1803.

The former editions of this Grammar did not come into our hands, but, by the report of the present Editor, in his preface, they must greatly have wanted correction. Mr. Fisher, we presume, was a North Britain, since we are told that he had ranked *Head* and *Heed*, *Poor* and *Power*, &c. as words of the same sound. Some provincialities, however, still remain; since the learner is told in page 10, to pronounce *Worsted*, Wus-ted, with short *u*; *Creature*, Creet-yer; *Failure*, Fail-yer, &c. At the same time, such errors, on examination, appear to be now very rare, and may easily be pardoned, on account of the great variation, and frequent anomaly of our pronunciation. As a Grammar, the book appears to be well digested, and calculated for practical use; nor can the publishers, who called in the aid of Mr. Wilson, have reason to repent of the confidence placed in him.

ART. 37. *Charms of Literature, consisting of an Assemblage of curious, scarce, and interesting Pieces, in Prose and Poetry, divided into pathetic, sentimental, harmonious, moral, and Gothic Subjects. Embellished with Engravings on Wood by Bewick.* 3d Edition. 3s. 6d. Mitchell. 1805.

It is no matter of surprise to us that this little volume should pass through three editions before it came to our hands, for it is a very convenient, cheap, and entertaining publication for young persons. It contains a great variety of matter, selected with proper attention to the intellectual faculties of young persons. The embellishments by Bewick are no important addition, indeed they are of very inferior execution.

ART. 38. *Progreſſive Exerciſes, adapted to the Eton Accidence; to be written or repeated whilſt Boys are learning the Nouns and Verbs. To which are added, a few of the moſt obvious Rules, with eaſy Examples, to teach Boys to conſtrue or tranſlate from the Latin. Third Edition.* Small 8vo. 30 pp. 2s. 6d. each.

From the view which we have taken of this little work, it appears to us calculated to anſwer the purpoſe intended; which is to illuſtrate and familiarize the rules laid down in the Accidence of the Eton Grammar. We can therefore recommend it as a convenient manual for thoſe teachers by whom that Grammar is uſed.

ART. 39. *Sketch of His Majeſty's Province of Upper Canada. By D'Arcy Boulton, Barriſter at Law.* 4to. 99 pp. 7s. Nornaville and Co. 1805.

This account, though ſlight, as the title of Sketch implies, has the advantage of being the reſult of actual obſervation. Its information alſo is directed, very principally, to a point which is of the firſt importance to thoſe who think of ſettling in that remote province; by ſtating the comparative fertility of the ſeveral townſhips, and their local advantages, or diſadvantages, with reſpect to markets, and to land or water carriage. The author every where extols the province of Upper Canada as ſuperior, in all reſpects, to the adjoining ſettlements belonging to the United States. The following general advice, we inſert, as uſeful to the perſons deſcribed, and honourable to the author of the tract.

"Europeans who quit their native ſoil for the weſtern world ſhould, before they leave their home, weigh maturely the cauſe of their departure. If politics form a part of their reaſon, I ſhould wiſh them to make choice of the United States, *not as preferable in themſelves, or becauſe that government will better pleaſe them*; but becauſe diſcontented, or diſappointed politicians would not ſuit the province, I have undertaken to deſcribe. I ſhall preſume, however, the object of an emigrant to be, to remove to a ſpot, where he can, with greater eaſe, maintain a riſing family, and increaſe a ſmall capital. Such a ſettler will find Upper Canada well ſuited to his purpoſe. Engliſh people, untainted by political ſpeculations, are naturally attached to their own conſtitution. I confeſs, for my own part, that when I firſt croſſed the St. Lawrence, and ſet my foot on Britiſh ground, after reſiding in the American States, I perceived ſenſations, that were unexpected, even to myſelf. I ſeemed at once to ſtep home. I need not deſcribe my feelings on this occaſion; a true Engliſhman can well imagine them, and with reſpect to thoſe that are not ſo, I am perfectly indifferent." P. 3.

This account is divided into eleven chapters; and an appendix is ſubjoined, containing an alphabetical liſt of places, for the

ſake

ake of giving a ſhort account of thoſe townſhips, &c. which had been omitted in the general deſcription. A neatly engraved map of Upper Canada is prefixed. We underſtand the author to be a riſing man in the profeſſion of the law in that country; and there can be no doubt, that his account may be relied on as authentic. It is reſpectfully dedicated to His Majeſty.

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Cæſar de Bello Gallico, a J. J. Oberlino. ibid.

Cicero de Finibus, a Rath. Hall.

—— Tuſculanæ Diſputationes—ab eodem.

Athenæus, Vol. vii.

*A much fuller, and more deſcriptive liſt next month.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received the favour of *Anglo-Scotus's* letter, and will attend to it in all particulars.

In the queſtion propoſed to us by *Docilis*, he will ſee, upon reflection, that thoſe who have in any way diſgraced their baptiſm, are very different from thoſe who never received any. But, in all ſuch caſes the great difficulty is to have ſufficient proof of the fact: and it is the ſame with reſpect to the rejection of particular perſons from communion.

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## LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

The Bookſellers have agreed to reprint *Dr. Johnſon's Engliſh Poets*, with the addition of *Chaucer*, *Spenſer*, and the other early poets, as well as the moſt eminent of thoſe poets who have died ſince *Dr. Johnſon's* ſeries cloſed. The whole will form a complete body of Engliſh poetry. The early poets will be collated, and the additional Lives written, by *Mr. Alexander Chalmers*.

A new edition of *Dr. Johnſon's* works, being the fourth ſince his death, is alſo in the preſs, and will appear in the early part of the winter. This has ſome additions, and illuſtrative notes.

The *Rev. Henry Boyd*, tranſlator of *Dante*, has nearly ready for publication *The Woodman's Tales* and other poems.

A Life of *Foote*, by *Mr. Cooke*, is in great forwardneſs.

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## ERRATA.

In our laſt, p. x of the Preface, for *Banon* read *Barrow*

P. xix do. for *Zotts*, read *Zotti*,